FOLLOW US:
thehindu.com
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

THE HINDU

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

MONDAY, MAY 30, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 pages • ₹6.00

PRINTED AT · CHENNAI · COIMBATORE · BENGALURU · HYDERABAD · MADURAI · NOIDA · VISAKHAPATNAM · THIRUVANANTHAPURAM · KOCHI · VIJAYAWADA · MANGALURU · TIRUCHIRAPALLI · KOLKATA · HUBBALLI · MOHALI · MALAPPURAM · MUMBAI · TIRUPATI · LUCKNOW · CUTTACK · PATNA

8 Years. Big strides in development

Sri Narendra Modi's Able Leadership

A boon to KARNATAKA's overall development

Agriculture: Rs. 19,374 crore

PM Kisan Samman Nidhi
Rs. 8,704.29 crore
Beneficiaries: 4.17 crores

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana
Rs. 2,111 crore
Beneficiaries: 23.9 lakhs

PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana
Rs.500 crore
Beneficiaries: 17 lakhs

PM Kisan Credit Card Yojana
Rs.19,950 crore

Health, Women & Child Development Rs.17,669.15 crore

National Health Mission
Rs.665.40 crore (in 2014-15)
Rs.1,274.71 crore (2021-22)

Ayushman Bharat Yojana
Rs. 1,213.13 crore

COVID-19 Response Package
Rs.1,277.70 crore

ICDS Scheme
Rs. 6,685 crore
Beneficiaries: 4.12 croresa

PM Matru Vandana Yojana
Rs.465 crore
Beneficiaries:18.62 lakhs

Centre's contribution to State (2014-22)
Rs.1,29,776.74 crore
Excluding Devolution, GST Compensation, Finance Commission Grants, Etc.

Skill Development

National Rural Livelihood Mission
Rs. 870.50 crore
Beneficiaries: 1,65,486

Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI)
Skill training Beneficiaries: 1,83,909
Self Employment: 1,09,950

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana
Beneficiaries: 2.19 lakhs
Shelter beneficiaries: 3,120
ID cards to Street vendors: 1.35 lakhs

PM Mudra Yojana
Rs. 1.63 lakh crore
Beneficiaries: 3.22 crores

PM Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi
Rs. 10,000 per beneficiary
Total beneficiaries: 1.61 lakhs

SC/ST, Backward castes and Minorities
Rs. 4,834.69 crore
Beneficiaries: 2,68,20,000 students

Suraksha Bima Yojana
Rs. 144.12 crore
Beneficiaries: 1.10 crores

Poshan Abhiyan
Total Beneficiaries: 53,93,685

PM Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana
Total foodgrains distributed 36,27,460 MT

3298 km of Highway
Rs. 50,527 crore

Education
Rs. 11,607 crore

Samagra Shikshana Karnataka
Rs.5,240.71 crore

PM Poshan Shakti Nirman (Midday meals):
Rs.3,803.95 crore
Beneficiaries 3.6 crores

Rural Development
Rs. 33,676 crore

Urban Development
Rs. 13,960 crore

National Highways
Improvement of 6189 km of national highways
Rs 1,06,830 crore

Atal Pension Scheme
Total subscribers 22.06 lakhs

PM Jan Dhan Yojana
Total accounts: 1.56 crore
Deposited amount Rs. 5,821 crore

Jeevanjyothi Bima Yojana
Rs. 741.42 crore
Beneficiaries - 49.95 lakh

E-Shramik Card Yojana
Beneficiaries: 60,66,422

PM Swanidhi Yojana
Total Accounts: 1,75,653
No. of accounts to which amount is deposited: 1,50,314

Thank you Modiji

BJP Karnataka

FOLLOW US:
thehindu.com
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

THE HINDU

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

MONDAY, MAY 30, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 pages • ₹6.00

At ASEAN meeting, MEA may not invite Myanmar Minister
page 8

RS polls: R.C.P Singh not on JD(U) list; Congress excludes Azad, Sharma
page 9

Britain considers return of pounds, ounces in post-Brexit measure
page 11

Vinicius' goal helps Real Madrid win Champions League
page 14

PRINTED AT · CHENNAI · COIMBATORE · BENGALURU · HYDERABAD · MADURAI · NOIDA · VISAKHAPATNAM · THIRUVANANTHAPURAM · KOCHI · VIJAYAWADA · MANGALURU · TIRUCHIRAPALLI · KOLKATA · HUBBALLI · MOHALI · MALAPPURAM · MUMBAI · TIRUPATI · LUCKNOW · CUTTACK · PATNA

NEARBY

Will take seer's letter seriously: Bommai

BENGALURU

The row over insulting Jnanpith awardee Kuvempu could take a serious turn with Chief Minister Bommai saying that the government was viewing the issue seriously. "I have taken the letter written by Nirmalanandanatha Swamy seriously. I will discuss the issue with Education Minister B.C. Nagesh and take a decision," he said.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 4

RS polls: Suspense on fourth seat continues

BENGALURU

The suspense over the move of political parties on the fourth seat for the election to the Rajya Sabha from the State continues to be intense even as the BJP on Sunday announced Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and actor Jaggesh as its candidates.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 4

Public Utility Building a shadow of its former self

BENGALURU

It might be one of the city's oldest skyscrapers, situated in the heart of the CBD. But today, it is a story of neglect. Traders who have set up shops inside the Public Utility Building hardly receive any new customers.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

EDUCATIONPLUS ▸ PAGE 3

Centre retracts caution on Aadhaar photocopies

UIDAI had warned against sharing them to avoid 'misuse'

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Two days after issuing an advisory cautioning people against sharing a photocopy of their Aadhaar card, the Union government on Sunday withdrew the notification, claiming it could be "misinterpreted".

A reading of tweets, past and present, of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which manages Aadhaar, shows the about-turn reveals confusion on its policy on photocopies of Aadhaar.

The Bengaluru Regional Office of the UIDAI, on May 27, published a notification asking people not to share photocopies of their Aadhaar card as it could be "misused".

In its withdrawal statement on Sunday, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the parent body of the UIDAI, said the authority had advised Aadhaar card holders only to exercise "normal prudence" in using and sharing their Aadhaar numbers and that its Bangalore subsidiary's advisory – now withdrawn – was in the context of an attempt to misuse an Aadhaar card using a photocopy.

"Aadhaar identity authentication ecosystem has provided adequate features for protecting and safeguarding the identity and privacy of the Aadhaar holder," the statement added.

What is a masked Aadhaar?

An Aadhaar number consists of 12 digits. Masking an Aadhaar number means replacing the first eight digits with some characters like "xxxx-xxxx" while only the last four digits of the original number are visible

HOW TO DOWNLOAD A MASKED AADHAAR?

Downloading an electronic version of masked Aadhaar card is a five-step process

1. Go to the link ***https://eaadhaar.uidai.gov.in/genricDownloadAadhaar***
2. Type your Aadhaar card number and enter the captcha
3. There will be an option "Do you want a masked Aadhaar". Select it
4. Enter the OTP received on your mobile phone
5. Verify and download your masked Aadhaar card

Past flip-flops

The warning and withdrawal seems to be part of a series of such flip-flops. On November 11, 2016, the UIDAI from its official handle tweeted: "We urge you to be very discreet abt [about] your Aadhaar and other identity documents. Do not share the document no. [number] or a printed copy with anyone."

Then, on multiple occasions, the authority said publicly that without biometric information, Aadhaar details could not be used to impersonate a person. However, it was said that since the Aadhaar card is a document with details of personal information, it is akin to giving out a mobile phone number, bank account number or PAN and ought to be "ordinarily protected" to ensure a person's privacy.

"Aadhaar as an identity document by its very nature needs to be shared openly with others as and when required for," said a tweet by the UIDAI on March 17, 2018.

The May 27, 2022 notification advised against using a public computer to download electronic versions of the Aadhaar. Only those organisations with a "user licence" from the UIDAI could use Aadhaar for establishing a person's identity.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Punjabi singer Moosewala shot dead

Opposition parties slam AAP govt. for breakdown of law and order in State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjabi singer Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, known as Sidhu Moosewala, was shot dead on Sunday at Jahawarke village in Mansa district of Punjab, a day after the State police withdrew his security cover and that of many others. The police said the incident looked to be the result of an inter-gang rivalry.

The Opposition parties launched a major offensive against the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, alleging a breakdown of law and order in the State.

Director-General of Police V.K. Bhawra said the murder looked to be the result of an inter-gang rivalry. "The incident occurred around 5.30 p.m. on Sunday. Mr. Moosewala was driving his vehicle and two private persons were accompanying him. Two vehicles from the front and one at the back blocked his vehicle before the firing started, in which he sustained bullet injuries. He was declared brought dead at a local hospital. We have recovered around 30 empty cases, which show at least three different weapons were used to fire," Mr. Bhawra said.

A file photo of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala. • PTI

SIT to probe

"The Lawrence Bishnoi gang has claimed responsibility for the killing through a Canada-based operative. The investigation is under way. Mr. Moosewala had four commandos of the Punjab police for security, but in the wake of *ghallughara* and Operation Bluestar anniversary as every year, the security was thinned. Currently, he had two commandos. However, today [on Sunday] before leaving his house, Mr. Moosewala asked the two commandos to stay at home. Also, the singer has a private bulletproof car, but he did not take it. We are setting up a special investigation team [SIT] to probe the case," the DGP said.

The Punjab police had withdrawn or reduced security cover of 424 people, including current and former legislators, heads of religious sects, and police officers, inviting sharp criticism from the Opposition parties.

Controversial figure

Mr. Moosewala, who had been surrounded in controversies for allegedly promoting 'gun culture' and violence in his songs, contested the 2022 Assembly election as the Congress candidate from Mansa. He had been booked in multiple cases by the Punjab police for glorifying gun culture under different Sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said, "I am shocked and deeply saddened by the gruesome murder of Mr. Moosewala. Nobody involved will be spared. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and his fans across the world. I appeal everyone to stay calm."

AAP supremo and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the murder of Mr. Moosewala was very sad and shocking, and said he had spoken to Mr. Mann on the incident.

Mr. Kejriwal said the culprits would be given the harshest punishment.

Shocked, says Rahul

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said, "Deeply shocked and saddened by the murder of promising Congress leader and talented artist Moosewala. My heartfelt condolences to his loved ones and fans from across the world."

Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal said, "This is an extremely critical hour, requiring all of us to exercise restraint and statesmanship. On his part, the Chief Minister must reflect deeply why Punjab under him has drifted into anarchy with total breakdown of law and order. The CM also must honestly think if the cheaply populist decision to withdraw Mr. Moosewala's security is directly responsible for the tragedy."

"After all, he faced tangible threat to life. This is no time for political point scoring but someone must take responsibility for the situation," he added.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Delightful debut

Heavyweights: Gujarat Titans, led by Hardik Pandya, second from right, made it a memorable campaign by defeating Rajasthan Royals by 7 wickets in the IPL final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday. • SPORTZPICS/IPL (MORE REPORTS ON PAGE 13)

Flight with 22 passengers goes missing after take-off in Nepal

Four Indians among passengers; bad weather hits rescue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KATHMANDU

The fate of 22 people, including four members of an Indian family, on board a Nepali airlines flight remained unclear as bad weather and blankets of clouds made it difficult to locate the aircraft that went missing on Sunday in the mountainous region of the Himalayan nation minutes after taking off from the tourist city of Pokhara, officials said.

The condition of the plane belonging to Tara Air that took off at 10.15 a.m. from Pokhara, 200 km east of Kathmandu, is unknown till now, the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) said in a statement.

The turboprop Twin Otter 9N-AET plane had four Indian nationals, two Germans and 13 Nepalese passengers, besides a three-member Nepalese crew, said Sudarshan Bartaula, a spokesperson at the airlines.

The plane was flying from Pokhara to Jomsom, a popular tourist town in central Nepal.

Gloom of uncertainty: Relatives of passengers on board the Twin Otter plane outside the Pokhara airport on Sunday. • AFP

Family from Thane

The airline issued the list of passengers which identified four Indians as Ashok Kumar Tripathy, his wife Vaibhavi Bandekar (Tripathy) and their children Dhanush and Ritika. The family resides in Thane near Mumbai.

An Army helicopter as well as private choppers were taking part in the search, it said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Diversity strengthens us, says Modi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday praised the diversity of languages and scripts in the country.

Sharing the example of Kalpana, a native of Uttarakhand, who learned Kannada in three months and scored 92 marks in the Class 10 examination in Karnataka, Mr. Modi said "our country is a rich treasure house of many languages, scripts and dialects".

"Varied attire, cuisine and culture in different regions are our hallmark. As a nation, this diversity strengthens us and keeps us united," the Prime Minister said on Sunday in his radio address *Mann Ki Baat*. He urged people to strengthen the linguistic diversity of the country.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

After Ram temple, other sites are 'waking up', says Adityanath

U.P. CM's statement comes amid Mathura, Varanasi disputes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

With the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the temple towns of Kashi, Mathura, Vrindavan, Vindhyavasini Dham and Naimish Dham appear to be waking up, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said here on Sunday.

At the BJP's one-day State executive meeting, Mr. Adityanath said one lakh devotees visited Kashi every day and the place was proving the significance of its name in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision.

Referring to the Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor, he said, "After the beginning of the construction of the grand Ram temple in Ayodhya, the waking up (*angdai*) of Kashi is before us." "All pilgrimages centres such as Mathura, Vrindavan, Vindhyavasini Dham, Naimish Dham are once again waking up (*angdai li*). In this situation, we all have to move forward once again," the Chief Minister said.

Yogi Adityanath

His remarks came amid legal proceedings over the temple-mosque disputes in Mathura and Varanasi.

He said there had been no communal riot in Uttar Pradesh, adding that for the first time in the State, *namaz* on the last Friday before Id-ul-Fitr was not held on roads.

Touching on the issue of loudspeakers in religious places, he said, "You must have seen how the unnecessary noise was got rid of."

He asked party workers to prepare for the 2024 Lok Sabha election, targeting 75 of the 80 seats in the State.

Eight from Bidar killed in accident in Uttar Pradesh

Their van collided with a truck, near Naniha, killing seven on the spot

STAFF REPORTER
KALABURAGI

Eight people from a family in Bidar were killed in a road accident near Naniha located between Lakhimpur Kheri and Motipur on Lakhimpur Kheri-Nanpara Highway at about 6 a.m. on Sunday when a van they were travelling in collided with a truck.

One of the injured passengers later identified the victims as Shivkumar Pujari, 28, Jagdamba, 52, Manmatha, 36, Anil, 30, Santosh, 35, Shashikala, 38, Saraswati, 42, and Shivani, 30, all residents of Kumpa area in Bidar.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Bidar Deputy Commissioner Govinda Reddy said that seven of them died on the spot and a critically injured Shivani breathed her last while she was being shifted from Bahraich District Hospital to a better facility in Lucknow.

The van that collided with a truck on the Lakhimpur Kheri-Nanpara Highway in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday morning. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"There were 16 people, all from the same family, on the van that was heading to Ayodhya. The vehicle collided with the truck killing seven on the spot and injuring the others. Three of them were critically injured. And, the injured were immediately rushed to Bahraich District Hospital. Shivani, who was critically injured, died on her way to a better facility in Lucknow as her condition became scritical. The victims were on a tour of Uttar Pradesh after visiting pilgrimage destinations in Uttarakhand," Mr. Reddy told *The Hindu*. He said that two children, including a two-year-old, escaped unhurt in the road accident.

Bebawati, 55, Sujata, 34, Deepika, 14, Sangma Patel, 40, Bhumika, 16, Sangma, 35, Sheetal, 22, and Eshanvi, 2, are being treated in Bahraich District Hospital.

It is learnt that Bahraich District Magistrate Dinesh Chandra and Superintendent of Police Keshav Kumar Choudhary rushed to the hospital to ensure proper treatment, before visiting the accident spot.

Expressing shock and grief over the incident, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that he had talked to his counterpart in Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath to ensure that all the injured were provided with better medical treatment. "Efforts are on to get the injured better treatment and transport the bodies to their native place in Bidar," Mr. Bommai said, expressing condolences and wishing speedy recovery to the injured.

Bodies coming today

Mr. Reddy said that the Uttar Pradesh administration will send the bodies on a regular flight to Hyderabad where the Bidar administration will receive them.

"I am in touch with the Bahraich district administration since morning and getting updates. The Uttar Pradesh administration will send the bodies to Hyderabad on the regular Lucknow-Hyderabad flight. We have made all arrangements to receive the bodies at the Hyderabad Airport. The bodies are expected to reach Bidar early on Monday," Mr. Reddy said.

THE HINDU

Text & Context

FOLLOW US:
thehindu.com
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Earning below ₹10,000

94.11 The share of 27.69 crore informal sector workers registered on the e-Shram portal who have a monthly income of ₹10,000 or below. About 72.5% of the enrolled workforce belong to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, according to the latest data. The proportion of informal workers getting a monthly income of ₹10,000 or below was 92.37% in the middle of November 2021 when total enrolments on the e-Shram portal were a little over 8 crores. PTI

Nepal economic growth

5.8 In % terms, the expansion expected in the Nepal's economy in the current financial year. The growth estimates were higher than 4.3% year-on-year growth in the previous year, but lower than earlier projection of 7% growth for the current fiscal year, as the rising energy and food prices have hit consumer spending and firms' investments. Nepal has ended all pandemic-related restrictions, imposed to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus and took several steps to revive the economy hit by the pandemic. REUTERS

King of Europe

14 The number of times Real Madrid have won the Champions League title — double the number of any other team on the continent — after beating Liverpool 1-0 in a final that started 37 minutes late because of disturbing scenes outside the Stade de France on Saturday. It gave Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti a fourth European Cup title, the most ever for a manager in the competition's history. The match evoked memories of the violence that marred the European Championship final at Wembley Stadium 10 months ago. AP

The $100 million club

124 In $ million, the amount earned by "Top Gun: Maverick" in its first three days in North American theaters in ticket sales. With this, Tom Cruise got his first $100 million opening weekend. Cruise, though undeniably one of the biggest stars in the world is not known for massive blockbuster openings. Before "Maverick," his biggest domestic debut was in 2005, with Steven Spielberg's "War of the Worlds", which opened to $64 million. After that it was "Mission: Impossible — Fallout" with $61 million in 2018. AP

Judging by the numbers

391 The number of vacancies in Indian High Courts as of May 1. While the working strength stands at 713, the sanctioned strength of judges of 25 High Courts has increased from 906 in 2014 to 1,104 in 2022. Nearly 100 recommendations made by various High Court collegiums for appointment as High Court judges are under various stages of processing, people aware of the procedure to appoint members said on Sunday. A copy of the recommendation is also sent to the Department of Justice in the Ministry of Law. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

LETTER & SPIRIT

Reservation in public employment

Jarnail Singh judgment authored by Justice Rohinton Nariman indicates a critical turn in the jurisprudence of reservation

THE GIST

- The jurisprudence of reservation relies on the symbiotic coexistence of constitutionally guaranteed equality of opportunity in public employment under Article 16 (1) of the Constitution of India.
- It is a settled law that there is no fundamental right to reservation or promotion under Article 16(4) or Article 16(4 A) of the Constitution, rather they are enabling provisions for providing reservation, if the circumstances so warrant.
- Sensitivity of the welfare state towards the weaker sections over decades resulted in the gradual expansion of canopy of reservation in the form of increasing classifications under Article 16.

ABHILASH M.R.

The jurisprudence of reservation relies on the symbiotic coexistence of constitutionally guaranteed equality of opportunity in public employment under Article 16 (1) of the Constitution of India and classifications thereunder various clauses of the same article, especially Article 16(4) and Article 16 (4 A), which are in the nature of facilitating provisions, vesting a discretion on the government to consider providing reservations for the socially and educationally backward sections of the society and to provide reservation in promotion to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, respectively.

Reservation not a fundamental Right

It is a settled law, time and again reiterated by the Supreme Court, that there is no fundamental right to reservation or promotion under Article 16(4) or Article 16(4 A) of the Constitution, rather they are enabling provisions for providing reservation, if the circumstances so warrant (*Mukesh Kumar and Another vs State of Uttarakhand & Ors. 2020*).

However, these pronouncements no way understate the constitutional directive under Article 46 that mandates that the state shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and in particular Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In fact, sensitivity of the welfare state towards the weaker sections over decades resulted in the gradual expansion of canopy of reservation in the form of increasing classifications under Article 16, a set of actions that created a wave of litigation by which resulted in the ever-evolving jurisprudence of affirmative action in public employment.

The Mandal storm and Indra Sawhney

Reservation in employment which was otherwise confined to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes got extended to Other Backward Classes as well on the basis of the recommendations of the Second Backward Class Commission as constituted, headed by B.P. Mandal.

The recommendation of Mandal Commission (1980) to provide 27% reservation to Other Backward Classes in central services and public sector undertakings, over and above the existing 22.5% reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, was sought to be implemented by the V.P. Singh Government in 1990 and the same was assailed in the Supreme Court resulting in the historic Indra Sawhney Judgment (1992).

In the judgment, a nine-judge bench presided by Chief Justice M.H. Kania upheld the constitutionality of the 27% reservation but put a ceiling of 50% unless exceptional circumstances warranting the breach, so that the constitutionally guaranteed right to equality under Article 14 would remain secured.

The Court dwelled on the interrelationship between Articles 16(1) and 16(4) and declared that Article 16(4) is not an exception to article 16(1), rather an illustration of classification implicit in article 16(1).

While Article 16(1) is a fundamental right, Article 16(4) is an enabling provision. Further, the Court directed the exclusion of creamy layer by way of horizontal division of every other backward class into creamy layer and non-creamy layer.

The Constitution (Seventy-seventh Amendment) Act, 1995

In Indra Sawhney Case, the Supreme Court had held that Article 16(4) of the Constitution of India does not authorise reservation in the matter of promotions. However, the judgment was not to affect the promotions already made and hence only prospective in operation, it was ruled.

By the Constitution (Seventy-seventh Amendment) Act, 1995, which, Article 16(4-A), was inserted to provide that "nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for reservation in matters of promotion to any class or classes of posts in the services under the State in favour of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which, in the opinion of the State, are not adequately represented in the services under the State".

Later, two more amendments were brought, one to ensure consequential seniority and another to secure carry forward of unfilled vacancies of a year, the former by way of addition to Article 16(4 A) and the latter by way of adding Article 16(4 B).

The Constitution Bench Judgment in M. Nagaraj (2006)

A five-judge bench of Supreme Court declared the 1995 amendment as not vocative of basic structure of the Constitution but laid down ceratin conditions which included the collection of "quantifiable data showing backwardness of the class and inadequacy of representation of that class in public employment". . The bench held that the creamy layer among Scheduled castes and tribes is to be excluded from reservation.

Jarnail Singh vs Lachhmi Narain Gupta (2018)

In the aforementioned case, a constitution bench of Supreme Court was called on to examine wisdom of the 2006 judgment in the light of the constitutionally recognised socio-economic backwardness of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which may not require any further substantiation. It was also contended that the requirement to identify creamy lawyer among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes fell foul of Indra Sawhney decision. The constitution bench invalidated the requirement to collect quantifiable data in relation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes but upheld the principle of applicability of creamy lawyer in relation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Jarnail Singh judgment authored by Justice Rohinton Nariman indicates a critical turn in the jurisprudence of reservation.

The Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, 2019

The 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), other Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes for government jobs and admission in educational institutions is currently under challenge before the Supreme Court which has referred the same to a constitution bench. The adjudication awaited in this regard may also turn to be a critical milestone in the jurisprudence of reservation as traditional understanding of backwardness is broadened to specifically include economic backwardness without

social backwardness as is traditionally seen.

Dr. Jaishri Laxmanrao Patil vs Chief Minister (2021)

Despite the Indra Sawhney ruling, there have been attempts on the part of many States to breach the rule by way of expanding the reservation coverage and the Maharashtra Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Act 2018, (Maratha reservation law) came under challenge before the Supreme Court which referred the same to a bench of five judges and one question was whether the 1992 judgment needs a relook.

Interestingly, the Supreme Court not only affirmed the Indra Sawhney decision, but also struck down Section 4(1)(a) and Section 4(1)(b) of the Act which provided 12% reservation for Marathas in educational institutions and 13% reservation in public employment respectively, citing the breach of ceiling. "The 2018 Act as amended in 2019 granting reservation for Maratha community does not make out any exceptional circumstance to exceed the ceiling limit of 50% reservation,", declared the apex Court. This judgment is likely to rein in the propensity on the part of some State governments to blatantly disregard the stipulated ceiling on electoral grounds rather than any exceptional circumstances as conceived by the constitution bench. It is pertinent to note that several States such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh had made submissions before the Supreme Court against any upper limit on reservation.

Abhilash M.R. is an advocate practising in the Supreme Court of India.

EXPLAINER

The Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh Enclave

The breakaway region in the South Caucasus has been at the centre of three wars and multiple clashes between the two countries

DIKSHA MUNJAL

The story so far: Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev announced on May 23 that their respective countries would be setting up border security and delimitation commissions, signalling a step towards resolution of a decades-long conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh Enclave. The talks between the two leaders have triggered protests in the Armenian capital of Yerevan and other parts of the country and the Opposition has demanded his resignation.

How did the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh begin?

Nagorno-Karabakh is a landlocked, mountainous and forested region, falling within the boundaries of Azerbaijan. Nagorno-Karabakh, called Artsakh in Armenian, hosts a predominantly ethnic Armenian population with an Azeri minority. It is located in the South Caucasus region and is roughly made up of modern-day Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

Nagorno-Karabakh, which was once a part of the Armenian kingdom, has been ruled by several empires over the centuries – the Ottomans, the Persians, and the Russians.

Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia later became separate Republics, with the Azeris incorporating Nagorno-Karabakh into their Republic. During the First World War, the Ottomans, aided by Azeris, attacked the south Caucasus, especially targeting ethnic Armenians. As the Ottomans retreated at the end of the World War, Azerbaijan and Armenia descended into a full-blown war in 1920.

The Azeri-Armenian war of 1991

Soon, the Bolsheviks took over south Caucasus to expand Soviet influence and Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia became Soviet Republics. The Soviets officially placed Nagorno-Karabakh as an autonomous Oblast (administrative region) in Azerbaijan's territory, despite the chiefly Armenian population. As Soviet power began to wane in the 1980s, the ethnic Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh expressed a desire to be reunited with their roots and become a part of Armenia, organising a vote for the same in 1988.

This did not go down well with Azerbaijan and military clashes ensued.

The war killed nearly 30,000 people and caused numerous ethnic Azeris to flee Karabakh and Armenia. Some Armenians in parts of Azerbaijan fled too.

By 1993, Armenia had taken control of most of Nagorno-Karabakh. The war ended in 1994 when both countries entered into a ceasefire brokered by Russia but the borders of Armenia and Azerbaijan were not demarcated. Peace talks were initiated by the Minsk Group but peace treaty could not be brokered.

The Minsk Group, created by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in early 1990, was co-chaired by Russia, the United States, and France.

The Minsk Group's proposals were continously rejected by both Yerevan and Baku. The role of the Minsk Group declined during the 2020 war between the two countries, as other negotiating groups entered the scene.

The war of 2016 and 2020

A ceasefire signed in 1994 could not prevent multiple flare-ups between the Nagorno-Karabakh rebel armed forces backed by the Armenian military, and the Azerbaijani military. Some skirmishes turned into direct clashes and the conflict has resulted in several casualties over the years.

In 2016, a clash started between Azerbaijan and Armenia which lasted for four days. A ceasefire signed in Moscow put an end to the war but the Nagorno-Karabakh issue was far from resolved.

Fresh clashes erupted on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border in September of 2020, which turned into a fierce six-week war in which more than 2,000 people died. The fighting began after Azerbaijani President Aliyev launched an offensive vowing to take back Nagorno-Karabakh and other Armenian-occupied districts.

Both parties entered a ceasefire brokered by Moscow in November 2020.

Who is organising the current peace talks and where do they stand?

Despite the 2020 ceasefire, clashes have not stopped. In November last year, seven Azerbaijani and six Armenian soldiers were killed in border clashes. With the efforts of the Minsk Group remaining largely unsuccessful, Baku saw an opportunity to introduce its own peace proposal, which calls for the mutual recognition of each State's territorial integrity, meaning the recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh within Azerbaijani territory.

The European Union, meanwhile, has emerged as a potential peace broker. European Council President Charles Michel spearheaded meetings between both countries for the beginning of peace talks twice in April, and again more recently on May 22.

While both countries have now agreed to formulate border security and delimitation commissions and start talks for a peace deal, a permanent solution for the Karabakh issue remains out of sight.

THE GIST

- During the First World War, the Ottomans, aided by Azeris, attacked the south Caucasus. As the Ottomans retreated at the end of the war, Azerbaijan and Armenia descended into a full-blown war in 1920.
- A ceasefire signed in 1994 could not prevent multiple flare-ups between the Nagorno-Karabakh rebel armed forces backed by the Armenian military, and the Azerbaijani military.
- Both countries have now agreed to formulate border security and delimitation commissions and start talks for a peace deal.

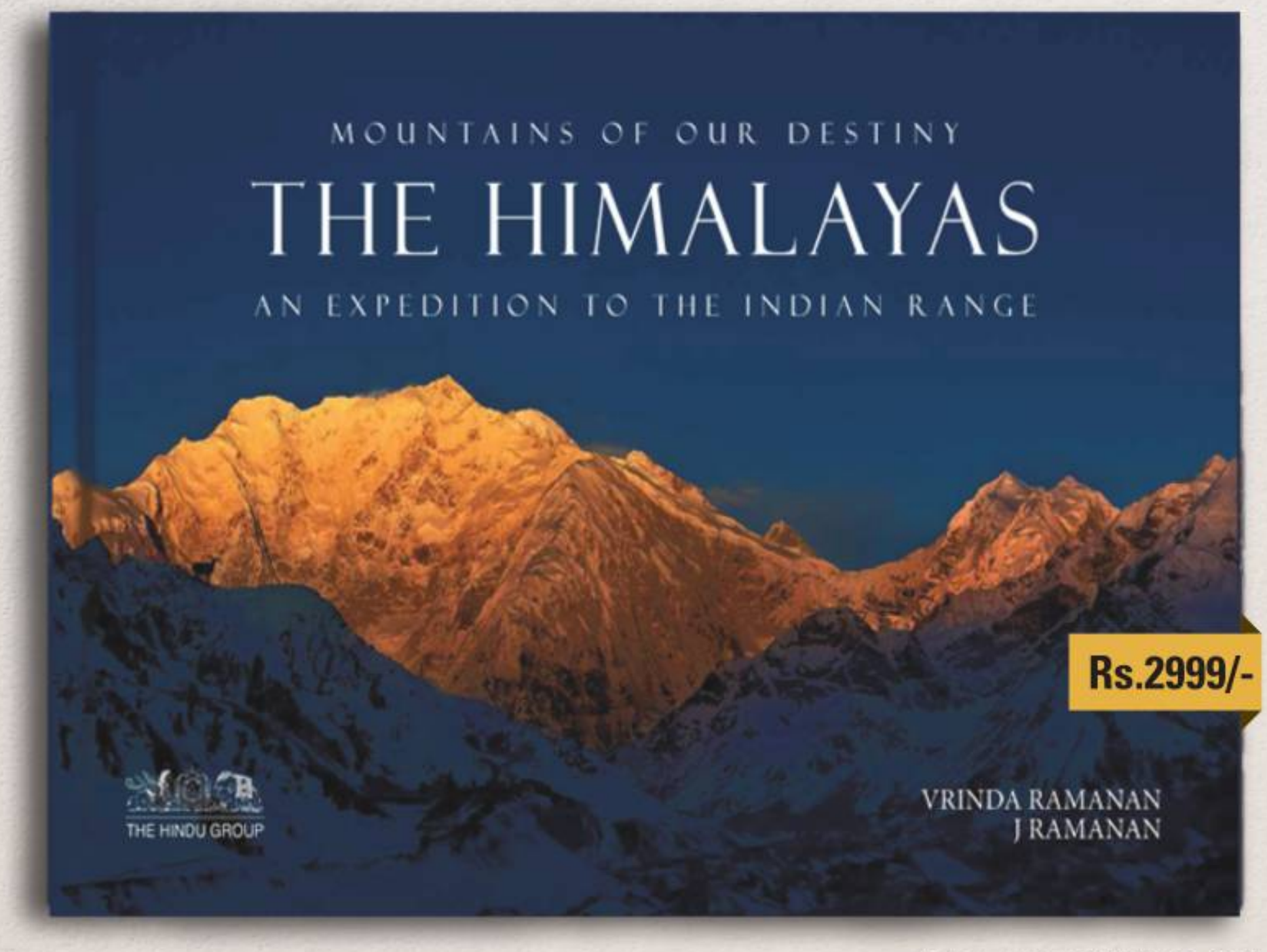
THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

MOUNTAINS OF OUR DESTINY

THE HIMALAYAS

AN EXPEDITION TO THE INDIAN RANGE



Releasing shortly

300+

- Mesmerizing photographs
- Pages in a Hardbound volume with vivid descriptions

PRE-BOOKING OFFER

20% DISCOUNT

* Terms & conditions apply | Shipping charges extra

EARLY-BIRD OFFER!

Thanks to overwhelming response, the early-bird offer of a free 36x12 inches panoramic poster of the Kanchendzonga peak is extended to the first 400 customers, who book their copies online

PRE-BOOK YOUR COPY ONLINE

Visit: publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore/
For bulk booking, e-mail: bookstore@thehindu.co.in
For any enquiries call: 1800 102 1878

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, MAY. 30
RISE 05:53 SET 18:42
RISE 05:34 SET 18:42

TUESDAY, MAY. 31
RISE 05:53 SET 18:42
RISE 06:18 SET 19:34

WEDNESDAY, JUN. 01
RISE 05:53 SET 18:43
RISE 07:06 SET 20:25

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	24
Mysuru	32	21
Bengaluru	31	21

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be little warm but humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower is likely.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C A slight warm but humid weaher to prevail. Night will be comfortable.Chances of rain and thundershower.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Directors, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Height of neglect: Public Utility Building a shadow of its former self

Traders say BBMP has neglected maintenance

JAHNAVI T.R.
BENGALURU

It might be one of the city's oldest skyscrapers, situated in the heart of the Central Business District (CBD), with a prominent view from Namma Metro. But today, it is a story of neglect and few give this iconic building a second look.

Traders who have set up shops inside the Public Utility Building hardly receive any new customers. Out of 85 shops in the complex, which occupies the first and second floors of the building, only 30 to 35 are now open for business.

Those who still run their businesses there say that one of the main reasons for traders to close their shutters was the landlord - the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Members of Public Utility Building Traders' Association (PUBTA) alleged that maintenance and security arrangements have been neglected by the BBMP. When *The Hindu* visited the building recently, the hallways and stairwells were stained, while the stench of washrooms could be smelt from a distance.

Some of the shops are closed at Public Utility Building. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

Inside the washrooms, there were no doors in some stalls and the taps on washbasins were not running. At many places in the complex, there were also electrical wires hanging out of boxes.

"The association pays the salaries of the housekeeping staff to have clean washrooms for our employees. Even then, there are infrastructural issues like leaky taps and pipes," said a trader who owns a textile shop in the complex.

He added that during the night, there are no proper lighting systems in place either.

The traders here also said that BBMP increases rent by at least 7% every once in a while, and it becomes a huge burden on them.

"They now demand ₹50 to ₹60 per square feet, much like the private spaces on M.G. Road and Brigade Road which is not easily bearable by the traders here. As most floors here are occupied by the BBMP offices, all of the rent which is missed out there is being forced on us. First of all, apart from our fixed customers, nobody new turns up here at all. Even if they come, the state of complex is so poor that they will not revisit," said K. Ramachandran, president of the association.

While it was a premium shopping hub in the 1980s and the 1990s, some traders confessed to now regretting staying at the complex for decades. Some said that they open their shops and sit there the whole day and on some days, not even one customer shows up.

They say that they cannot relocate to different places as it will not be financially feasible.

Responding to questions, B.T. Mohan Krishna, Chief Engineer, BBMP (East), said that a tender has been called to fix duct-related issues in washrooms. He also said that to ensure security, six Home Guards are always on duty in the building.

"Nevertheless, we will have a meeting with the association and work out a solution to their problems," he said.

Businessman found dead

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 45-year-old businessman was found dead at his house in Bagalagunte on Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Pramod Hegde, a native of Moodbidri, who was living with his wife and son. According to the police, he was running a transport business at the Peenya industrial area and owing to the pandemic, his business was running into losses. The police said that he was upset for the past few days and on Saturday, he went to meet his friends and returned home.

His wife went to visit relatives and when she could not reach him, informed the neighbours to check up on him. He was found dead.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help)

AhaGuru IIT JEE + CBSE + NEET
RECORDED VIDEO COURSES
by India's Best Teachers
Video Lectures
Solved Examples
Practice Questions
Class 7 to 12
BUY NOW!
Scan the QR code to get a Demo Class
96001 00090
96001 00020

Revamped Bal Bhavan to reopen within three months

Renovation work being undertaken at the Jawahar Bal Bhavan in Cubbon Park. • K. MURALI KUMAR

TANIA ANNY
ARCHITA LAKHOTIA
BENGALURU

Four-year-old Dhruva was visibly irritated after he found out that the Jawahar Bal Bhavan in Cubbon Park, where he had come to ride the toy train, was closed. He, along with his mother and grandmother, who had come from Yeshwanthpur had no knowledge of the bhavan being closed. Such was the case for many children and their families who visited the bhavan during the summer vacation.

Owing to the pandemic and the renovation work which was taken up later under the Smart City Mission, the bhavan has been closed since the first wave of the pandemic. Along with some reconstruction work, a new disabled friendly park is also coming up in the area. The park is also aiming to have more digital systems in place once the work is completed. With no information on the official website, parents are bringing their children in large numbers to the park after two years. Talking to *The Hindu*, Dhruva's mother Akshara said, "I visited this park as a child, and wanted my child to have the same experience".

This was the first time that they had come to Cubbon Park after the pandemic. "We tried calling the office, but there was no one who responded. The website also did not have any clear information."

On the days *The Hindu* visited the bhavan, there were many families which had come from other States, who also returned disappointed after seeing the locked gates. Anil, who had brought his family from Kerala, said "We came for a vacation and brought our children here to play. There is no other area in the city where they can play. We visited Lalbagh also, but the environment around the bhavan is the best for children to play. With no information available anywhere, it becomes really difficult to know when the park reopens."

The authorities at the bhavan say that it might take two to three months for the area to be fully functional again. "Improvements and construction have been going on for the last seven months here. Special features for disabled children like EPDM flooring and activities suitable for them are being concentrated on the most. The main emphasis also lies on making the park completely digital, including the entry process," said Chikkamma Basavaraj, chairperson of Bal Bhavan Society.

Smart City officials also said that their work there will be over in a month. "We had taken up a small part of the revamp project. We have completed the work at the disabled park and the open auditorium. Lake development will be completed in another month," said Rajendra Cholan, Managing Director, Bengaluru Smart City Limited.

MISSION ROZGAR
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
Come Explore & Invest in UP
POWERING NEW INDIA
Surging Towards $1 Trillion Economy
GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY @3.0
3 June, 2022 | Lucknow
New Uttar Pradesh of New India
2nd in Ease of Doing Business Ranking
Largest Consumer Base in India
Amongst the top 5 Exporting States in India
Nivesh Mitra : Paperless single point to get approval, around 349 services provided online by 29 departments
Highest no. of MSMEs (89.99 Lakh) in India
More than 21 Investment Friendly Policies
Information and Public Relations Department, U.P.

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RM No. RAREMG/2070/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 53 • No. 127

CACHE

5G: Under the hood

With increased capacity, lower latency, and energy efficiency, 5G is expected to significantly improve the state of art and enable new applications

THE GIST

- 5G represents the allocation of new spectrum to increase capacity. Since most of the spectrum at lower frequencies is already being utilised — much of this new spectrum is being allocated at higher frequencies.
- Since much of the 5G infrastructure is being built from ground up, there is a chance to redesign the technology to make it more suitable for the evolving communication needs of the future.
- As 5G rolls out, over the next several years the volume of data is expected to exponentially increase. To ensure that there isn't a corresponding increase in the energy usage, 5G places a lot of importance on energy efficiency.

SANDEEP RAO

Lately there has been a lot of buzz around 5G. Last week Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's first indigenous test bed to help support the ecosystem around 5G. Earlier this year, the Government reiterated its plans to conduct auctions for 5G spectrum in June and expected services to be rolled out by the third quarter of the year.

Service providers have been conducting 5G trials and 5G ready phones have been flooding the market. But what exactly is 5G? What lies behind the promise of faster downloads and better call quality?

Radio electronics refers to a broad range of technologies that can transmit, receive and process wireless signals. While these technologies can utilise electromagnetic spectrum that goes all the way up to 300GHz, the lower frequencies of this spectrum are particularly attractive. Lower frequency signals can travel longer distances and penetrate obstacles with lesser attenuation. Electronic components (amplifiers, transmitters, receivers) operating at lower frequencies are also easier to design and manufacture. Consequently, much of the bandwidth in the lower frequencies of this spectrum has already been allocated for several applications (mobile communications currently use the spectrum from 800MHz to 2.5 GHz).

New spectrum for 3GHz

With the increasing demand for mobile services, the currently allocated spectrum is proving inadequate. At the simplest level, 5G represents the allocation of new spectrum to increase capacity. Since most of the spectrum at lower frequencies is already being utilised – much of this new spectrum is being allocated at higher frequencies. The first deployments in India will be around 3GHz, but will expand to 25 GHz and beyond.

As 5G services evolve to occupy higher frequencies, it will significantly increase the bandwidth available for mobile services. However, at these frequencies the design of the transmitting and receiving equipment becomes more complex. Signal attenuation also increases. So, the coverage area of each cell tower will decrease which will require the towers to be more closely spaced.

An interesting fact related to the physics of signal transmission is that at higher frequencies it becomes easier to direct a signal in specific direction. So, signals transmitted from a cell tower can be more precisely directed at a specific user (rather than spreading out in various directions which is just a waste of energy).

Intuitively, this enhanced directivity results in less interference between signals meant for different users which directly translates to increased capacity. Thus, while operating at higher frequencies has some fundamental challenges, it offers some unique opportunities as well.

Evolving communication needs

Since much of the 5G infrastructure is being built from ground up, there is a chance to redesign the technology to make it more suitable for the evolving communication needs of the future. 5G places special emphasis on low latency, energy efficiency and standardisation.

The first deployments in India will be around 3GHz, but will expand to 25 GHz and beyond

Existing wireless communication infrastructure is primarily designed around the needs of mobile phones. However, several emerging applications in factory automation, gaming and remote healthcare have more stringent latency requirements. Self-driving cars is an illustrative example. Low delays between transmission and reception of messages are extremely critical when these cars have to co-operate with each other to avoid accidents.

As 5G rolls out, over the next several years the volume of data is expected to exponentially increase. To ensure that there isn't a corresponding increase in the energy usage, 5G places a lot of importance on energy efficiency. This will mean lower energy bills for service providers and longer battery life for mobile devices. Greater attention to standardisation is another important aspect of 5G. Today most of the components that make up wireless telecom interact with each other using proprietary protocols that are vendor specific. To enable the rapid deployment of 5G infrastructure there is an industry-wide effort to standardise interaction between components. Greater standardisation would enable service providers to build their infrastructure, 'mixing and matching' components from multiple vendors. Switching vendors would also be easier which would foster competition and lower costs.

Advanced R&D

There is a lot of research in both industry and academia centred around 5G. An interesting topic is the convergence of positioning, sensing and communication. Traditionally, positioning, sensing and communication have been seen as separate technologies (for e.g., GPS is used for positioning, and radar for sensing). However, all three technologies involve transmission and reception of radio signals – hence it is possible for positioning and sensing to piggy back on 5G infrastructure that is primarily meant for communication. While this is not a new concept, 5G is expected to significantly improve the state of art. It turns out that some of the key features of 5G (such as increased bandwidth availability and antenna directionality) are also useful for improved accuracy of positioning and sensing.

There is also a lot of research around cost and energy efficient electronic devices that can transmit and receive high frequency signals. This involves delving into the fundamental physics of semiconductor technologies and is expected to lay the foundation for the growth of wireless technology into higher frequency bands.

In fact, engineers are already busy prototyping a 6G system which would utilise the large amounts of available spectrum at frequencies above 100 GHz. As one of my colleagues who works in this domain pointed out – engineers are perhaps having more fun developing these technologies than consumers are using them!

Sandeep Rao is with Texas Instruments

THE DAILY QUIZ

Test yourself on renowned women writers from India and the world

1 Name this writer whose lesser-known works include *The Casual Vacancy* and *Cormoran Strike*. She also goes by the pseudonym 'Robert Galbraith'.

2 This writer's debut novel is set in the fictional town of Ayemenem, inspired by Aymanam village in Kerala. It went on to win the Booker Prize in 1997. Identify the writer.

3 Which author's 1813 novel begins with the famous sentence "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife"?

4 Name this Pulitzer Prize-winning author whose best-known work revolves around the lives of two children. Inspired by the racist attitudes in her hometown of Monroeville, Alabama, the story is set in the fictional Southern county of Maycomb.

5 This Tamil feminist, teacher and novelist rose to fame with her autobiographical novel *Karukku* (1992), which captures the joys and sorrows experienced by Dalit Christian women in Tamil Nadu. Name her.

6 Known as 'the black woman's poet laureate', this writer was a pillar of the Civil Rights Movement and Black feminist writing in the 1970s. Identify this poet, whose autobiography is titled *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

Compiled by: Ranjani Srinivasan

◄ Name the creator of the fictional monster pictured on the left.

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. At the age of 16, Jawaharlal went to the U.K. to study in school and then went to Trinity College, Cambridge. Name the school and course in which he got his honours degree. **Ans: Harrow and Natural science**
2. Name the alternative title for 'An Autobiography' penned by him. **Ans: 'Toward Freedom'**
3. He is the longest serving Prime Minister. From which Lok Sabha constituency did he get elected thrice. **Ans: Phulpur**
4. In which year was November 14 officially declared as Children's Day in India. **Ans: 1957**
5. Name his sister who was the first woman to hold the President of the United Nations General Assembly. **Ans: Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit**
6. In which year did he first become the president of the Indian National Congress and who did he succeed. **Ans: 1929 and his father Motilal Nehru**

Visual: Name the Hollywood mogul seen. **Ans: Walt Disney**

Early Birds: Pranay Thaduri | Bhaiyyasaheb Kandake | Pramodini Mallick | Himanshi | Desh Deepak

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Twenty vowel sounds in English

'It is a downhill ride to the weekend'

S. UPENDRAN

How is the word 'Wednesday' pronounced? (R. Sashi Kumar, Mysore)

English is a funny language in that there is no one to one correspondence between spelling and pronunciation. The spelling of a word doesn't always tell us how the word is to be pronounced. English has forty four sounds, but it has only twenty-six letters to represent them. When you ask someone how many vowels there are in English, they normally say, 'Five – a, e, i, o and u'. But the problem is, English has twenty vowel sounds, and we use these five letters of the alphabet to represent them. As a result, the same letter is used to represent several different vowel sounds. This explains why the 'a' in 'cat', 'calf' and 'address' are pronounced very differently.

In the case of 'Wednesday', many people in our country tend to pronounce the 'd' in the word; native speakers of English, however, do not pronounce this letter. For them, the word consists of only two syllables, not three. The 'wednˈ is pronounced like the word 'when', and the following 's' sounds like the 'z' in 'zip' and 'zoo'. They pronounce the word 'wenz-day' with the stress on the first syllable. It comes from the old English 'Wodenstag' meaning 'day of Woden'.

In Norse mythology, Woden or Oden was the god who created the earth and the first human beings. Ever since the mid 1960s, this day has been frequently referred to as 'hump day'. Wednesday comes in the middle of the week; when we complete our work on this day, we are over the hump – it is a downhill ride to the weekend.

What is the difference in meaning between 'foreword' and 'forward'? (L. Mythili, Nellore)

The 'fore' in 'foreword' and 'for' in 'forward' are pronounced the same – they are pronounced like the word 'for'. The 'or' in 'word' rhymes with 'heard', 'bird' and 'curd', whereas the 'ar' in 'ward' sounds like the 'a' in 'china'. In both cases, the stress is on the first syllable. A 'foreword' is what we usually find in a book; it is a short introduction to the book written by someone other than the author. Not all books have a foreword. What the author usually writes as an introduction is called a 'preface'.

It would be great if you could get Patterson to write the foreword to my new book.

'Forward' in the opposite of 'backward'.

Anju leaned forward and whispered something in her friend's ear.

Is it okay to say 'boarding and lodging'? (K. Naresh, Trichy)

This is an expression frequently used in India to refer to a place which provides both accommodation and meals. People in Britain, however, prefer to say, 'board and lodging', and not 'boarding and lodging'. Nowadays, 'bed and board' has become much more common. Americans prefer 'room and board'. The important thing is that no one says 'boarding'. 'Board' in this context refers to the meals provided when you stay somewhere.

The board and lodging for the week came to nearly thirty thousand rupees.

I guess since the university has invited me, they'll take care of bed and board.

"My spelling Wobbly. It's good spelling, but it Wobbles, and the letters get in the wrong places."

-AA Milne

upendrankye@gmail.com

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

THE HINDU
EDUCATION PLUS
GET THE EDGE
www.thehindu.com/education
www.facebook.com/thehinduedge
www.twitter.com/thehinduedge

Syllabus for a second brain

The ability to process and manage information is crucial in learning. The second brain approach helps do this in a faster, better and clearer manner

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

SALIL SAHADEVAN

If you are like most people, you store more stuff on your computer than you can ever read or watch. You may have marked many interesting concepts in books and then ignored them. As a result, most people forget much of what they learn after the exams are done. On the one side, we are drowning in more information than we can ever handle. On the other, we struggle to remember and keep our valuable ideas on demand.

To get useful outcomes from the information that we consume, we need a system to manage our personal knowledge: a second brain. The idea has immense relevance in the lives of students, teachers and others ranging from note-taking to networked thinking.

Structure of our notes

The second brain, also known as alternate memory or digital gardens, is an externalised storage; an electronic metaphor for personal databases. The data of your daily life – notes, screenshots, images, readings, writings, lists, ideas, links, voices, and thoughts – are littered across books, papers, mobiles and other devices in different file formats. Our brain is not efficient in storing such scattered information. It becomes difficult to structure, process, and retrieve personal knowledge when required. So this needs to be stored in an external programme that has easy input and powerful retrieval.

The idea of the externalisation of memory is not new. It has been pushed by productivity experts like David Allen. But, there are more reasons to go beyond such brain dumping, when you think of note-taking. Most methods of note-taking are compartmentalised in folders or pages. This means, we keep information under different folders which are like having different notebooks for different subjects, or separate folders for projects, meetings, references, and so on. Popular note-taking apps also follow the folder hierarchy. It appears neat because they are good at capturing the information. But they have serious limitations.

First, our brain does not work in folder-like compartments. Second, in real life, our folders tend to overlap. For example, the same reading material may be an input for a class, or for a personal project, or something to share with a friend or a reference. Organising it in many folders is cumbersome. Third, hierarchical arrangements are less useful in processing, interconnecting, and finding hidden patterns. Tags and cross-references attempt to overcome such limitations.

Networked thinking

A different way of tagging is the bi-directional linking of ideas and themes leading to a network. In other words, every piece of information is connected to everything else. We need to figure out how and why they are related or give meaning to that relation.

A good way to understand personal knowledge management is *Taking Smart Notes* by Sönke Ahrens. The book explains Zettlekasten, the note-taking system used by German sociologist Niklas Luhmann, who arranged his thoughts in thousands of index cards in physical slip-boxes. The secret is regular inputs to the system and linking of the information, which means proper capture and structure lead to networked thinking. By organising information into granular interconnected blocks that are searchable and actionable, it functions like our brain and not like the folders on our computer.

Through consistent tagging and back-linking of information, the entire data gets a structure. You can design a workflow with no coding using plug-ins. In effect, by connecting your notes, you get an extensible graph-like database, which creates a stream of new ideas. Beyond a productivity extension of the pre-digital filing cabinets, the second brain is an approach to capture and organise your entire information consumption in the way you want. While developing this system make take time, the value is knowledge accumulation over time. Students will benefit from the lifelong gathering of thoughts and the emergence of new insights by combining them. They can see hidden connections, which can help solve the 'forget after exam' syndrome in education.

Connected and continuous learning

The ability to process and manage information is crucial in learning. The second brain approach to organising information allows learners to visualise ideas and inspirations in the original context. Study habits supported by such a system result in better digital lives. Tiago Forte, who popularised the term *second brain*, says that Personal Knowledge Management will soon become a required course in all universities.

Though technologies change, the broad ingredients of the knowledge creation process remain the same: explore, capture, organise, link, think, distil, design, advance, create, rethink and repeat. Second brain methodology helps us to do this faster, better, and clearer without losing ourselves in information anxiety.

The views expressed here are personal.

The writer is with the University Grants Commission.

SCHOLARSHIPS

International Day of Yoga Jingle Contest 2022

A contest by the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, to drive awareness of yoga
ELIGIBILITY: Open to candidates who are at least 18 years of age.
REWARDS: Cash prize of ₹25,000
DEADLINE: June 21
APPLICATION: Online
b4s.in/edge/IDJ7

AICTE Internships for Civil Infrastructure

An initiative for applicants to work in Civil Infrastructure at Varanasi Smart City under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India
ELIGIBILITY: Open to candidates with a B.E./ B.Tech. degree and specialisation in Civil Engineering, Civil Engineering (Construction Technology with relevant skills and interests.
REWARDS: ₹10,000 per month
DEADLINE: May 31
APPLICATION: Online
b4s.in/edge/AIC7

Nursing Scholarship, Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation

ELIGIBILITY: Open to candidates below 17 years residing in a self-settled leprosy colony and who want to pursue a B.Sc. Nursing (Basic) and GNM degree.
REWARDS: Variable awards
DEADLINE: June 05
APPLICATION: Online
b4s.in/edge/FNS7

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SRI CITY CHITTOOR
ANDHRA PRADESH-517646
PhD Admissions - JULY 2022
(Full-Time/Part-Time)
Last Date - 18 July 2022
MTech Admissions - JULY 2022
• MTech - Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
• MTech - Cyber Security
• Last Date (Non-GATE) - 12 August 2022
• GATE qualified candidates need to apply through CCMT portal
INFORMATION EVENTS
COIMBATORE 3rd JUNE 2022
VIJAYAWADA 3rd JUNE 2022
COCHIN 4th JUNE 2022
VIZAG 4th JUNE 2022
CHENNAI 10th JUNE 2022
HYDERABAD 11th JUNE 2022
SCAN HERE TO REGISTER
For more information visit : www.iiits.ac.in
Contact : 73064 73364 83748 49552
IIIT Sri City is located about 60 KMs from Chennai on the Nellore highway

PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY
Established under Section 2(f) of UGC Act, 1956 | Presidency University Act, 2013 of the Karnataka Act No. 41 of 2013
Bengaluru
4.0 | APPROVED BY AICTE NEW DELHI | CONCESSIONAL FEE WITH CHOICE OF BRANCH FOR CET ASPIRANTS
New Age Programmes 2022-23
B.Tech - Computer Science and Engineering
• Cyber Security • Internet of Things
• Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning • Block Chain • Data Science
B.Tech - Computer Science and Technology
• Big Data • DevOps
B.Tech. - Information Science & Engineering
• Spl. Artificial Intelligence and Robotics
B.Tech. - Information Science & Technology
• Spl. Artificial Intelligence and Data Science
B.Sc. - Multimedia, B.Sc. - Data Science
Discover Excellence
7 Advanced Schools | 52 Programs
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
B.Tech. - Computer Science and Engineering
B.Tech. - Computer Science and Engineering (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)
B.Tech. - Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science)
B.Tech. - Computer Science and Engineering (Cyber Security)
B.Tech. - Computer Science and Engineering (Blockchain)
B.Tech. - Computer Science and Engineering (Internet Of Things)
B.Tech. - Computer Science and Technology (Big Data)
B.Tech. - Computer Science and Technology (DevOps)
B.Tech. - Computer Science and Technology [Spl. in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning]
B.Tech. - Computer Engineering [Spl. in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning]
B.Tech. - Information Science and Engineering [Spl. in Artificial Intelligence & Robotics]
B.Tech. - Information Science and Technology [Spl. in Artificial Intelligence & Data Science]
B.Tech. - Civil Engineering
B.Tech. - Civil Engineering [Spl. in Infrastructure Development]
B.Tech. - Civil Engineering [Spl. in Smart Cities]
B.Tech. - Electrical & Electronics Engineering
B.Tech. - Electrical & Electronics Engineering [Spl. in Automotive Electronics]
B.Tech. - Electrical & Electronics Engineering [Spl. in Power & Energy Systems]
B.Tech. - Electronics and Communication Engineering
B.Tech. - Electronics and Communication Engineering [Spl. in Artificial Intelligence & Wearable Technology]
B.Tech. - Electronics and Communication Engineering [Spl. in Embedded System & VLSI]
B.Tech. - Mechanical Engineering
B.Tech. - Mechanical Engineering [Spl. in Additive Manufacturing]
B.Tech. - Mechanical Engineering [Spl. in Mechatronics]
B.Tech. - Petroleum Engineering
M.Tech. - Artifical Intelligence
M.Tech. - Data Science
M.Tech. - Embedded System & VLSI
M.Tech. - Building & Construction Technology
M.Tech - Product Design & Development
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
BBA
BBA (E-Commerce & Supply Chain Management)
BBA (Financial Technology)
BBA (Digital Marketing)
BBA (Business Analytics)
BBA (Aviation Management)
MBA [Dual Major]
[Spl. in Finance, Marketing, Human Resource Management, Operations and Supply Chain Management, Business Analytics, Digital Transformation]
MBA (Logistics & Supply Chain Management)
MBA (Business Analytics)
MBA (Digital Marketing)
MBA (E-Business Management)
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION SC.
BCA
BCA [Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality]
BCA [Gaming and Graphics]
B.Sc. - Data Science [Comp. Sc., Statistics, Mathematics]
SCHOOL OF MEDIA STUDIES
BA - Journalism and Mass Communication (Journalism, Psychology, Pol. Sc)
SCHOOL OF LAW
(5 - Year [Hons.] Integrated Programme)
BBA LL.B. [Hons.]
BA LL.B. [Hons.]
B.Com LL.B. [Hons.]
LL.M. - Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
LL.M. - Technology Law
SCHOOL OF DESIGN
B. Des. - Product Design
B. Des. - Game Design
B. Des. - Communication Design
B. Des. - Space Design
B. Des. - Fashion Design
B.Sc. - Multimedia (VFX, SFX & Gaming)
SCHOOL OF COMMERCE
B.Com [Professional] [Spl. In Banking & Finance / Corporate Accounting & Taxation]
B.Com [Hons.] [Spl. In Corporate Accounting with CMA-US / Business Analytics]
B.Sc. - Economics (Economics, Statistics, Mathematics)
CET CODE : E237 | COMED-K CODE : 173 | PGCET CODE : MBA – B349 | M.TECH – T983 | admission@presidencyuniversity.in
SCAN THE QR CODE TO VISIT THE CAMPUS
₹15 CRORE
ADMISSIONS OPEN 2022-23 +91-63667-82344
presidencyuniversity.in | Presidency University, Itgalpur, Rajanakunte, Yelahanka, Bengaluru 560064
INTEREST FREE EDU. LOAN FACILITY

RS polls: Suspense on fourth seat continues

None of the three parties has the requisite number of votes to win the seat from the State; BJP, Congress weighing options

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and actor Jaggesh

The suspense over the move of political parties on the fourth seat for the election to the Rajya Sabha from the State continues to be intense even as the BJP on Sunday announced Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and actor Jaggesh as its candidates while the Congress announced the candidature of Jairam Ramesh.

While none of the three parties has the requisite number of votes to win the fourth seat, the Janata Dal (Secular) has announced that it will field its candidate while the BJP and the Congress are learnt to be still weighing options. The last date for filing of nomination is Tuesday.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said the party central leadership would take a call on fielding the third candidate since the party had enough strength to win only two seats. "None of the parties can win on their own. We are also watching what other parties are doing regarding the fourth seat. We have informed the high command about the developments." BJP sources said that a Bengaluru-based businessman is being tipped to be the party's third nominee.

The election is being held as Ms. Sitharaman, Mr. Ramesh, and BJP member K.C. Ramamurthy are retiring and another seat is lying vacant due to the death of Congress leader Oscar Fernandes. The election is scheduled for June 10.

JD(S) plan

JD(S) sources said its former Rajya Sabha member Kupendra Reddy could be the party's nominee or he may be asked to contest as a JD(S)-backed Independent candidate. With 32 members in the Legislative Assembly, the party is short of 13 votes to ensure its candidate's victory. "Mr. Reddy has a good relationship with the Congress central leadership and the onus will be on him to secure the support," sources said. On Sunday, Mr. Reddy met KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar to discuss the issue, sources said.

The Congress, party sources said, was also planning to field a second candidate to force an election, but is still undecided. "A Muslim candidate is being discussed as the party's second candidate to counter the JD(S) move. If the BJP fields its third candidate, then the competition becomes intense."

The Congress, with 70 members, including an Independent, has 25 votes in excess after ensuring the victory of its candidate. Each candidate has to secure 45 votes as per a formula devised to elect members of the Rajya Sabha from the Legislative Assembly.

It is learnt that several old guards in the Congress are trying to pressure their leadership to field a loyal party worker as its second candidate in a bid to prevent scope for horse-trading by way of any businessman contesting as its second candidate or it being pushed to a piquant situation of supporting the JD(S) candidate to prove its secular credentials.

Threat of cross-voting

Meanwhile, if the election becomes necessary, political parties fear that there could be a threat of cross-voting though the voting is through an open ballot since all the parties are facing some kind of dissidence in their ranks. This is especially so in the election year when parties could be expecting several of its members to cross over to other parties due to local political reasons.

"With none of the parties in a position to secure victory to their candidate for the fourth seat, there is a fear of cross-voting and even horse-trading if there is an election," said JD(S) Legislature Party deputy leader Bandeppa Kashempur. "There have been enough instances in the recent past in the elections to the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Council where official candidate has lost due to such cross-voting," he said, pointing to JD(S) legislators cross-voting in the 2016 Rajya Sabha polls, resulting in the defeat of the party's official candidate B.M. Farooq.

A Congress leader also concurred that it is possible that there could be cross-voting and horse-trading because no one has the required strength.

Jaggesh's selection surprises partymen

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Springing another surprise in the selection of candidates, the BJP on Sunday named film actor Jaggesh along with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as its candidates for the Rajya Sabha election from Karnataka.

The party that had chosen two new faces out of the four candidates that it fielded in the Legislative Council, sprung a surprise by choosing the actor. Ms. Sitharaman has been re-nominated to contest from Karnataka.

Party sources here said Mr. Jaggesh's name was neither discussed in the core committee meeting nor was it sent to the central leadership. "It is quite surprising that Mr. Jaggesh has been nominated."

In the past too, the party had selected late Ashok Gasti and Eeranna Kadadi as Rajya Sabha candidates, taking the local BJP unit by surprise.

> 'The actor's name was neither discussed in the core committee meeting nor was it sent to the central leadership'

On the possible reasons, sources said the party may be planning to utilise Mr. Jaggesh's services during the ensuing elections to the Legislative Assembly, especially in the Vokkaliga-dominated constituencies since he has a good following.

Meanwhile, party sources also said the chances of the third candidate being named cannot be ruled out since no party has the strength to get their candidate elected on their own strength.

CM: Will take seer's letter seriously

Action has been sought against those who brought disrespect to Kuvempu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The row over chairman of the textbook review committee Rohith Chakratheertha allegedly insulting Jnanpith Award winner Kuvempu could be taking a serious turn with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday saying that the government was viewing the issue seriously.

"I have taken the letter written by Adichunchanagiri Mutt seer Nirmalanandanatha Swami seriously. I will discuss the issue with Education Minister B.C. Nagesh and take a decision," the Chief Minister told presspersons here.

On Saturday, the seer had urged the government to take action under the cybercrime provisions against those who had brought disrespect to both the celebrated poet and the State anthem penned by the poet. He said that insulting the State anthem was equivalent to insulting the national anthem and violating the laws of the land.

Meanwhile, several civil society activists and progressive writers will be staging a dharna in front of the Namma Metro station near the City Civil and Sessions Court here demanding the dissolution of the textbook review committee for insulting the State anthem and Kuvempu. They will be protesting against the alleged anti-Kannada stance taken by the committee. Among those participating in the protest include C.S. Dwarkanath and S.G. Siddaramaiah.

Mukhyamantri Chandru resigns from Congress

He is disappointed over being denied Council poll ticket

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

> **I cannot win elections because I do not have money and belong to a microscopic community among the backward classes. The party used me for eight years, but I did not get anything.**
>
> MUKHYAMANTRI CHANDRU

Disappointed over being denied the party's nomination for the Legislative Council, popular Kannada actor and former MLC Mukhyamantri Chandru on Sunday resigned from the primary membership of the Congress.

He is among the many leaders in the Congress who are now learnt to be disgruntled after being denied the party's nomination for the two Council seats that it won recently. Congress sources said that with only two seats available, there were too many aspirants. Mr. Chandru is a one-time MLA from the Janata parivar, two-time MLC from the BJP, and former Chairman of the Kannada Development Authority.

The actor, who joined the Congress from the BJP in 2014, told *The Hindu*: "I cannot win elections because I do not have money and belong to a microscopic community among the backward classes. The party used me for eight years, but I did not get anything."

Accusing the party leaders of being selfish and lacking commitment, he lamented that though his name had been recommended twice in the past, it had been replaced at the last moment. "The party also did not give me any position. Just as an eyewash, I was made the president of the cultural cell, which I rejected," he said.

On future plans, he said, "I would be touring the State to create awareness that the three political parties are not doing enough. I am independent at the moment."

Many disgruntled

Meanwhile, Congress sources said that many others who have been disappointed with the selection process are likely to raise the issue at the Chintan Shivir. "They are citing lack of transparency in selection and appointment process. The disgruntlement is high among senior leaders from Lingayat, Vokkaliga, and OBC communities," they said.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Mittal matters

While the government might go on advertising its investor-friendly policies, businessmen seem to be more keenly looking at a stable political environment and a strong government before investing in Karnataka. During a meeting at the World Economic Forum summit in Davos, steel baron Lakshmi Mittal was heard asking Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, "What is the strength in the Assembly?" Mr. Bommai is heard replying that it is 119 out of 224. Later, Mr. Mittal is heard telling the Chief Minister, "No worry about 2-3 MLAs going away..." Then, Mr. Bommai is seen explaining to him how the BJP government was formed in the State. In a video of the meeting shared by the Chief Minister's office, Mr. Bommai says, "Almost 17 MLAs of the Congress and the JD(S) resigned and of them, 15 got re-elected on the BJP ticket." Immediately, Mr. Mittal enquires about the stability of the government, to which the Chief Minister says, "Stability is not an issue". In a tweet later, Industries Minister Murgesh Nirani said it was a "great meeting" with Mr. Mittal, who has promised to set up a solar-wind hybrid project with an investment of ₹6,000 crore in the State.

Sound and fury

People in Bengaluru seem to find one excuse or the other to bursting crackers after 10 p.m., causing a lot of inconvenience to the elderly and the sick. While some are bursting crackers for birthdays, others do so to express joy over their favourite team's victory in IPL matches. Irked over noise and pollution levels, the former Minister and BJP MLA S. Suresh Kumar *(in picture)* asked the Deputy Commissioner Police of Bengaluru West to beef up night rounds to crack down on all those indulging in such acts.

According to him, even birds panic and start calling in the dead of night. The former Education Minister, who posted the letter on Twitter, asked police officials to step up Hoysala patrol rounds and beat police during the night to ensure sound sleep for residents of his Rajajinagar constituency.

NAGESH PRABHU

Dalits enter temple with police protection in Yadgir district

STAFF REPORTER
YADGIR

With adequate police security, eight members of a Dalit family from Huvinahalli in Shorapur taluk of Yadgir have entered the Anjaneya temple in Amalihal village in Hunsagi taluk of the district and performed the tonsuring ceremony for their child.

There was strong resistance from the 'upper' class community in Amalihal to Dalits' entry into the temple. Following this, people from the Dalit community submitted a petition to the Kembhavi police and sought protection to them while entering the temple and for the family's programme.

On Friday, Superintendent of Police C.B. Vedamurthy visited the residents of both the villages, held a peace meeting and explained to them the rights of every citizen to perform puja and also warned of legal action if anyone obstructed Dalits. However, the situation was tense. Therefore, the police discussed with taluk administration, following which prohibitory orders Section 144 of the Cr.PC were imposed in the two villages and police security was stepped up.

"On Saturday, the police brought the Dalit family members in a police vehicle from Huvinahalli to the temple at Amalihal and allowed them to perform the puja and conduct the tonsuring ceremony," police sources said. Three circle inspectors, 10 sub-inspectors, 150 civil constables, and two platoons each from the District Armed Reserve and the Karnataka State Reserve Police have been deployed in the area.

"The situation is under control and police security is continued in both the villages," Dr. Vedamurthy told *The Hindu*.

CLASSIFIEDS MART
TO ADVERTISE:
www.thehinduads.com
Bengaluru: 98455 29981; 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575; 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600; 2335700

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mahamune** Rugved Gajanan alias Mahamunerugved Gajanan S/o Gajanan , R/o: 17, 9th Cross 8th Main India Garage,Vinayaka Nagar B Block Murugeshpalya ,Bengaluru- 560017, changed my name from to Rugved Mahamune for all purposes.

I, **DIVYA** Bathija, D/O Ramanathan Ganapathy born on 30-May 1981 residing at No 49, Nanjappa road, Shantinagar, Bangalore have changed my name to Divya Ganapathy vide affidavit dated 27 May 2022 at Bangalore

I, **FAZIL** Ahmed, S/o Syed Gulame Abbas, R/at No.15, C3, King Way Apartment, King Street, Richmond Town, Bangalore-560025, have changed my name from Fazil Ahmed to Syed Fazil Ahmed vide affidavit dated 26-05-2022 before Notary B.M.Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

I, **D.SUNEETHA** W/o Kiran Kumar B. M, R/at Ward No.7, Ashwini Extension, Deccan Hospital Road, Chintamani Town, Chikkaballapur(D), have changed my son's name from Buvik Kiran to Buuvik Kiran vide affidavit dated 28-05-2022 sworn before Notary M. Devaraja, Chintamani.

I, **D.SUNEETHA** W/o Kiran Kumar B.M, R/at Ward No.7, Ashwini Extension, Deccan Hospital Road, Chintamani Town, Chikkaballapur (D), have changed my daughter's name from Hetal Kiran to Hanslka Sree Kiran vide affidavit dated 28-05-2022 sworn before Notary M. Devaraja, Chintamani.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VENKATASUBRAMANIA THIAGARAJAN**, S/o Ramamirtham Venkatasubramanian, aged 13 years, R/o No. 184, Jalvayu Vihar, Kammanahalli Main Road, Bangalore-560043, do hereby correcting my name from **VENKATASUBRAMANAYA THIAGARAJAN** to **VENKATASUBRAMANIA THIAGARAJAN** in my service records, Pension Payment Order, Correction Affidavit, sworn before the VI Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate at Bangalore on 26th day of May 2022.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I **VASUDEV** A P, hereby declare that the below-mentioned original registered documents have been lost during transit. Property bearing Sy No1244/1, Kamandoddi, Shoolagiri Taluk, Krishnagiri Dist, Tamilnadu 1. Document No 1994/526, Vijaya Vasudev 2. DOcument No 1994/528, Krishna Charan V 3. Document No 1994/519, Divya Sampath 4. Document No 1994/518, Sowmyendranath 5. Document No 1994/523, Usha Ramachandran. A police complaint has been lodged in this regard. If found Please Contact A P Vasudev Mob: 9448411355

EDUCATIONAL

SosinClasses
HYDERABAD
INSTITUTE FOR IAS EXAMINATION
FREE WORKSHOP
On 12th JUNE 2022 at 11:00 am @ Hyd
Online @ Google Meet
How to crack IAS in FIRST ATTEMPT?
by
Mrs. SOSIN REVELLA
Eminent National Faculty for UPSC - CSE
GENERAL STUDIES FOUNDATION 2023
New Batch Starts on
Offline 22nd June 2022
Online 29th June 2022
Scan to Register for Live Free Workshop
info@sosinclasses.com
+91 90000 36699 / 99899 66744 / 90000 66690

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

K.Gomathi
FONDLY REMEMBERED BY
Husband - R.Krishnamurthy
(Retd Agri Chemist TN Agri Dept.)
Sridhar & Srividya
(Son & Daughter in Law)
Srinivasan & Geetha
(Son & Daughter in Law)
Janaki & Kumar
(Daughter & Son in Law)
Venkatraman, Srinath,Srihari & Srinidhi (Grandchildren)
and Host of Relatives
Ph: 94430 64191

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

REMEMBRANCE
2nd Year Death Anniversary

Shri. S. Venkatesan
Chartered Accountant
Born : 03-09-1944 | Expired : 30-05-2020

शैले शैले न माणिक्यं मौक्तिकं न गजे गजे !
सज्जना : न हि सर्वत्र चन्दनं न वने वने !!

Geetha Venkatesan and Family
Associates and Staff of S. Venkatesan & Co. Bengaluru.

DEATH

In the loving memory of

Smt. Seethalakshmi K

August 31, 1975 - May 28, 2022

Generous, thoughtful, loving and loved, your beautiful soul has left not just the physical world but also an insurmountable void in our lives. You will be remembered for the tenacity and inspiring strength in your battle with cancer. Thank you for touching our lives with your beautiful voice, your wisdom, and your unwavering kindness.

Deeply missed by

Anilkumar SG, Adithya Krishna, Ananth Krishna
Relatives, Friends and the team at Samunnati

Samunnati

In Memory of your loved ones
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubbali: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Rate for Karnataka:
Minimum: Rs. 290/- for 2 lines. Extra line: Rs. 145/-
B/W Display: Rs. 90/- per sq.cm; Colour Display: Rs. 100/- per sq.cm
for Placing Advertisements Online log on to
www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

IN BRIEF

Technical snag delays flight in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

There was mild commotion at the GMR Rajiv Gandhi International Airport when a 'Flybig' plane to Maharashtra and from there to Madhya Pradesh, developed a technical snag and stopped on the runway on Sunday morning. Airport officials rushed to take up repairs even as the passengers stranded protested the delay. It was repaired and took off at 12.33 p.m..

Amalapuram violence: judicial probe sought

VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Congress leaders on Sunday urged the State Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan to order immediate steps for restoration of law and order in Amalapuram. Addressing a party conference to discuss key issues such as the arson in Konaseema and the mystery shrouding the death of Dalit youth Subramanyam, the party's vice president Janga Goutam called for immediate steps to "prevent the rule of anarchy unleashed by the YSR Congress government ". They also sought a judicial inquiry.

AP continues to witness intense hot weather

VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh continued to reel under intense heat on Sunday as mercury soared in several coastal districts. Heatwave conditions prevailed at many places. Gannavaram recorded a maximum temperature of 43.9 degrees Celsius, the highest in the State. It was followed by Amaravati (43.4), Nandigama (43.2), Machilipatnam (43.1), Jangamaheswara Puram (41.2), Bapatla (41.2), Kakinada (41) and Nellore (40), according to the IMD.

Electrifying byelection campaign ends

Polling will be held in Thrikkakara tomorrow; ruling and Opposition fronts confident of victory

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The nearly one-month-long electrifying byelection campaign in the Thrikkakara Assembly constituency, which saw the who' who of Kerala politics and also a host of national leaders visiting Kochi, concluded on Sunday evening with a public show of strength by the three political fronts.

Bands played out popular numbers at select locations as workers enthusiastically danced to the tunes. *Kalashakkottu*, the conclusion of the public campaign, thus turned out to be a joyful event for the party workers.

Poll ensemble: Last-minute poll campaign by LDF, UDF and NDA for the Thrikkakara Assembly byelection at Palarivattom junction in Kochi on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Candidate watch

Jo Joseph, the Left Democratic Front (LDF) candidate, climbed on a crane to greet the workers, whereas United Democratic Front (UDF) candidate Uma Thomas arrived at Palarivattom in an open jeep for the event. After his roadshow, A.N. Radhakrishnan, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate, climbed on an excavator to the applause of BJP activists.

Addressing a rally for the BJP candidate, Kerala Janapaksham (Secular) leader and former MLA P.C. George, who is on bail in connection with an alleged hate speech in Thiruvananthapuram, also appealed to voters in Thrikkakara to cast their votes to strengthen religious harmony and amity in society.

The campaign, which began on a balanced note with the debate on the high-speed rail project, took a curious turn to issues concerning women safety with the survivor in the actor rape case moving the Kerala High Court with a petition expressing her dissatisfaction over the manner in which the State government had handled the case.

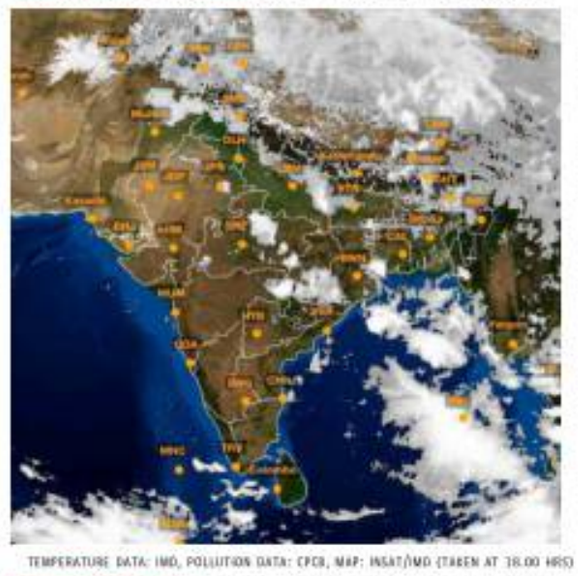
Political row

The petition, which dramatically changed the poll narrative in the constituency, forced Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who was camping in the constituency to oversee the electioneering, to publicly come out with an assurance to the survivor. He also gave the survivor an audience in the State capital. The surfacing of a private video, which was attributed to the LDF candidate, on social media opened a political slugfest. The arrest of two Congress workers for sharing the video online added fuel to the row.

Polling will be held on May 31.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy rainfall at isolated places likely over West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning at isolated places over Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Odisha, Assam, Meghalaya, Marathwada, Telangana, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.4	34.6	25.6	Kozhikode	9.0	33.6	24.5
Ahmedabad	–	41.0	29.0	Kurnool	–	39.9	27.5
Aizawl	–	28.4	19.8	Lucknow	–	36.5	28.2
Allahabad	–	40.5	29.2	Madurai	17.0	36.8	23.8
Bengaluru	–	30.6	21.2	Mangaluru	20.2	31.2	23.5
Bhopal	–	39.9	28.0	Mumbai	–	34.4	28.0
Bhubaneswar	–	38.2	25.8	Mysuru	–	33.0	21.2
Chandigarh	0.5	39.4	25.3	New Delhi	–	40.8	27.0
Chennai	–	39.7	28.4	Patna	7.0	32.0	22.6
Coimbatore	–	34.7	24.0	Port Blair	–	31.2	27.4
Dehradun	0.5	34.8	21.4	Puducherry	–	37.0	26.8
Gangtok	5.6	21.2	16.7	Pune	–	35.7	23.5
Goa	1.0	33.5	25.3	Raipur	–	40.6	26.5
Guwahati	0.8	34.6	25.8	Ranchi	–	37.2	24.4
Hubballi	–	33.0	22.0	Shillong	58.0	23.3	15.1
Hyderabad	–	39.8	27.8	Shimla	0.2	26.5	15.8
Imphal	1.0	30.2	20.5	Srinagar	–	25.7	13.7
Jaipur	–	42.0	31.0	Thiruvananthapuram	23.0	31.0	24.3
Kochi	14.2	29.0	25.0	Tiruchi	–	38.6	28.0
Kohima	5.0	24.0	15.4	Vijayawada	–	43.9	28.6
Kolkata	13.0	34.7	24.7	Visakhapatnam	–	34.0	29.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO2	NO2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	11	12	..–	166	147	
Bengaluru	11	78	6	69	92	
Chennai	26	22	..–	39	71	
Delhi	–	25	22	152	354	
Hyderabad	5	17	23	11	11	
Kolkata	14	13	22	107	109	
Lucknow	5	68	41	218	185	
Mumbai	3	10	47	32	36	
Pune	89	20	114	95	72	
Visakhapatnam	–	–	–	–	–	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Dharuhera, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 334 indicating a very poor level of pollution. In contrast, Gadag, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 26.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Goel given concurrent charge of ACS post

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Senior IAS officer Rajneesh Goel has been given concurrent charge of the post of Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) to government in a reshuffle of IAS officers effected on Sunday night.

Prasad I.S.N., ACS to government, Finance Department, is placed in concurrent charge of the post of ACS-cum-Development Commissioner.

Umashankar S.R., Principal Secretary to government, Co-operation Department, is transferred and posted as Principal Secretary to government, Revenue Department.

Rashmi V. Mahesh is posted as Principal Secretary to government, Education Department (Higher Education). Pankaj Kumar Pandey is posted as Secretary to government, Commerce & Industries Department (MSME). Ram Prasath is posted as Special Commissioner (Estates) BBMP. Vinoth Priya R. is posted as Managing Director, Karnataka Skill Development Corporation. Ramesh D.S. is posted as Director, Mines and Geology Department. Sharat B. is posted as Commissioner for Agriculture. Sathyabhama C. is posted as Director, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. Somashekar S.J. is posted as Managing Director, Karnataka Small Scale Industries Development Corporation.

Three tourists drown in Abbey Falls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Three tourists drowned in Abbey Falls near Madikeri in Kodagu district on Sunday.

Superintendent of Kodagu district police M.A. Aiyappa told reporters that the deceased were part of a group of 16 tourists from Hyderabad, who stayed overnight in a lodge in Kushalnagar, before visiting Abbey Falls on Sunday afternoon. During their visit to the tourist location, three of them were sitting on banks of the river when one of them slipped and fell into the river. Soon, the other two also jumped into the waters to save him.

50-year-old construction labourer beaten to death

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 50-year-old construction labourer was allegedly tortured and beaten to death over accusations of a bike theft in Ramamurthy Nagar on Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as Ashwath, a resident of Muneshwara Nagar. The police said that he was missing for the past three days and was found dead on the roadside close to an under-construction house where he was working in Hoysala Nagar.

Bheemashankar Guled, DCP, South East Division, said that preliminary probe revealed that the assailant had tied the hands and legs of Ashwath to torture him and assaulted him with wooden logs and iron rods.

The police, following a trail, detained the owner of the construction house, identified as Srinivasa Reddy, and the contractor, Subbaiah Naidu, in connection with the murder .

The duo allegedly detained Ashwath and tortured him accusing him of stealing a bike from the construction site and killed him in the melee. They later dumped the body 50 metres away from the scene of crime and escaped, the police said.

The police have also booked an atrocity case against the assailants as Ashwath was a Dalit and are investigating the case.

In the wild

Big cat spotted: A three-year-old adult male tiger sighted along the Polavaram project canal in Prathipadu area in Kakinada district of Andhra Pradesh in the early hours of Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Man dies of West Nile fever in hospital in Thrissur

Emergency meeting convened; no other case reported

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THRISSUR

The Health Department sounded an alert as a man succumbed to West Nile fever, a mosquito-borne disease, at Panancherry panchayat in Thrissur on Sunday.

Kerala Revenue Minister K. Rajan convened an emergency meeting at Government Medical College Hospital (MCH), Thrissur, to review the situation.

State Health Minister Veena George attended the meeting online.

According to the medical records, the patient started showing symptoms of West Nile fever on April 24.

His hands and legs were paralysed four days later. The patient, who was admitted to a private hospital on April 27, was put on ventilator support on April 28 following breathlessness. After being treated in various hospitals, he was admitted to the medical college hospital on May 18.

The disease is caused by the West Nile virus, which is spread by culex mosquitoes.

West Nile fever was confirmed by the virology institute in Alappuzha on May 25. His condition became critical on May 29 and he died around 9.30 a.m.

By culex mosquitoes

West Nile fever is a disease caused by West Nile virus, which is spread by culex mosquitoes. The mosquitoes become infected by birds that often carry the disease. However, in 80% of infected people show no symptoms. About 20% people develop fever, headache, vomiting or rashes. It can cause fatal health issues in less than 1%, according to health officials. "Currently no other case has been reported from the district. There is no reason for panic. Facilities have been arranged in the medical college and other health institutions," authorities said.

KPCC allots work to VPs and general secretaries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Ahead of the election to the State Legislative Assembly in 2023, the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has allocated constituency-wise work to the newly appointed vice-presidents and general secretaries.

While 40 VPs have been allotted districts where they will look after party affairs, 109 general secretaries have been given Assembly constituencies to work for the party in the elections. The MLCs have also been allocated party work in Assembly constituencies along with the VPs and general secretaries.

Work for party programmes in Kalyana Karnataka, Mysuru, Bombay Karnataka, and Bengaluru regions have been assigned. The 149 office-bearers had been appointed in April.

In a letter addressed to them, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar said that taking the elections seriously and the need to win it, responsibilities have been given. For some constituencies, responsibilities are yet to be fixed, he said.

The KPCC has also set up seven committees on economic affairs and price rise, social justice and empowerment, organisation, farmers and agriculture, youth, women, education and employment, political affairs and AICC programmes implementation and Chinthan Shivir venue committee. The first meeting of the committees has been convened on May 31, in which Leader of the Opposition in Legislative Assembly Siddaramaiah, Leader of the Opposition in Legislative Council B.K. Hariprasad and Mr. Shivakumar will take part.

Bengaluru police step in to help after stray dog found assaulted

According to the police, it was beaten with a metal rod

TANIA ANNY
BENGALURU

A stray dog that was assaulted by an unknown person, found empathy from not just well-meaning citizens, but also the police.

According to the police, the dog was assaulted with a metal rod on Harlur Road. A group of volunteers used to feed stray dogs in the area and found the dog in serious condition on Saturday and immediately took it to a veterinary hospital. The animal is now under observation.

Shilpa, who rescued the dog, said, "This is an old dog and has been in this locality for so long. We used to feed this dog. On Saturday, we found it in a serious condition and took it to the hospital immediately. Later, we thought we should file an FIR also as cruelty to animals is rising and went to the Bandepalya police station. The police filed the FIR immediately. In fact, the inspector contributed ₹5,000 and the police visited the hospital also".

> **We received a complaint on Saturday night that a stray dog had been assaulted. As the accused is unknown, it may take some time but we are confident we will be able to trace the accused.**
>
> RAJESH L.Y.
> Bandepalya police station inspector

Talking to *The Hindu*, Bandepalya police station inspector Rajesh L.Y. said, "We received a complaint on Saturday night that a stray dog had been assaulted by an unknown person, based on which we registered a case against unknown persons under the animal cruelty Act as well as Sections of the IPC. As the accused is unknown, it may take some time but we are confident we will be able to trace the accused in some days".

A member of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and animal rights activist Arun Prasad hailed the Bandepalya police for showing responsibility and compassion.

Two killed as tractor collides with bike

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Two persons were killed on the spot, while another was critically injured, when a tractor, carrying an eucalyptus tree load, collided with their motorcycle on Saturday night. The incident took place on the Kuluvanahalli-Sulkunte road near Nelamangala.

The deceased have been identified as Surya B., 19, and his friend Mahesh M., 20, while the injured Kumar M., 20, is said to be critical. According to the police, the victims were residents of Sulkunte village and were working in a private factory. A case of negligent driving has been filed against the tractor driver, who was driving without the headlights.

Man has to face trial to disprove charge: HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A man engaged in real estate business will now have to face trial to disprove that calling "punda-pokri" (rogue) in a television interview does not amount to a defamatory remark, and it did not force a woman to commit suicide as she could not tolerate such remarks against her husband aired through a Kannada television channel.

The High Court of Karnataka said that the petitioner, Srinivasaraju, will have to face trial to disprove the allegation that the word used by him in a television interview was not defamatory.

Justice K. Natarajan passed the order while refusing to quash the criminal proceedings initiated against the petitioner-businessman based on a complaint lodged by Venkatesh, whose wife had committed suicide in 2012. Venkatesh was earlier working in the real estate firm of Srinivasaraju and their relationship had soured, resulting in both of them making allegations against each other.

It was also alleged that the businessman had earlier made several calls to Venkatesh's wife over their dispute and this had allegedly pushed her into depression.

Srinivasaraju, in connection with an allegation of encroachment of government land in Bengaluru city, had told a Kannada television channel that the allegation was not true while blaming that it was due to Venkatesh, whom he described as a "punda-pokri".

It was alleged in the complaint that Venkatesh's wife was upset due to the allegation made against her husband, and she committed suicide a month after the interview was aired by the channel.

Noticing that there are other allegations like threatening over the phone against the petitioner-businessman, the court said he had to face trial to ascertain his claim that the word used by him is neither defamatory nor had resulted in the suicide of the woman.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

Absolution

India needs a law to make compensation for unlawful arrest a statutory right

Shoddy investigation is one thing, but a malicious and motivated probe is quite another. The probe conducted by former Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) official Sameer Wankhede into a purported tip-off about consumption of drugs on board a cruise ship, in October 2021, seems to fall in the latter category. The raid on the vessel resulted in seizure of narcotic substances and the arrest of several people, including Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan. Even though nothing was seized from Mr. Khan, the agency made sensational claims in court about his being part of an international drug trafficking network and, quite strangely, cited messages purportedly exchanged on WhatsApp as 'evidence'. By the time he obtained bail weeks later, the case had all the makings of a witch-hunt. A special investigation team from Delhi, which took over the case after allegations of extortion surfaced against Mr. Wankhede, has now cited lapses in the initial investigation and the lack of prosecutable evidence, and absolved Mr. Khan and five others and excluded them from the charge sheet filed recently. The lapses include failure to video-graph the search of the ship, not conducting a medical examination to prove consumption, and examining Mr. Khan's phone and reading messages on it without any legal basis.

It is good that the agency made amends for the mischief done by the initial set of investigators by applying the standard of 'proof beyond reasonable doubt' while presenting its final report. At the same time, the NCB has to re-examine its priorities. It is an elite agency in the fight against international trafficking in narcotic and psychotropic substances. Its primary focus ought to be on trans-national smuggling networks, while the job of pursuing drug peddlers and raiding rave parties must be left to the local police. While strict disciplinary action is warranted if any officer is found involved in 'fixing' someone, it is also time that the Government came out with a legal framework for compensating those jailed without proof. The country does not have a law on the grant of compensation to those maliciously prosecuted. However, constitutional courts do exercise their vast powers sometimes to award monetary recompense; the remedy of a civil suit is also available in law, but it is time-consuming. The Law Commission of India has recommended enactment of a law to make compensation in such cases an enforceable right. Currently, Section 358 of the Cr.P.C. provides for a paltry fine to be imposed on a person on whose complaint a person is arrested without sufficient grounds. Such provisions should be expanded to cover just compensation by the state for unnecessary arrests. It is a sobering thought to note that even people with celebrity status and vast resources are not insulated from the misuse of police powers, even while recognising that it is still possible to vindicate one's innocence and force the establishment to adopt a course correction.

Paying a price

Vaccines, antivirals for monkeypox must be made available in endemic countries in Africa

In three weeks since the first case of monkeypox infection was confirmed on May 7 in the U.K. in a person who had just arrived from Nigeria (where the outbreak has been continuing since September 2017) the virus has spread to at least 21 countries and infected 226 people, mainly in Europe and North America. The U.K., which is the hardest hit, has reported 106 lab-confirmed cases as of May 26. As per WHO, more cases can be expected as surveillance expands; scientists believe the virus has been spreading under the radar for some time. For instance, a person in Canada had symptoms of monkeypox on April 29, though it was not tested at that time. Similarly, the monkeypox genome sequence first shared by Portugal was from a sample collected on May 4 but was not tested for monkeypox till the U.K. reported the first case. All the 21 countries that have reported at least one case are non-endemic for monkeypox, raising concerns about the fast spread of the virus, by far the largest outbreak in humans outside Africa. Two rave parties in Spain and Belgium have been super-spreader events. Nigeria has reported 231 confirmed cases and eight deaths since 2017, with 15 cases reported this year till April 30. There have been a few instances of exportation to non-endemic countries from Nigeria since 2017, and eight such instances in all from the endemic countries in Central and West Africa. However, human-to-human transmission in non-endemic countries has been very limited, if at all, in the past.

Despite the first case in humans being reported in 1970, and the virus becoming endemic in about a dozen countries in Africa, very little attention has been paid to study the virus characteristics, the host animal, and the modes of transmission. However, in September 2019, the FDA approved a vaccine, and two antivirals approved for treating smallpox have shown promise in animal studies. It is unclear how long it would take to contain the outbreak. Meanwhile, there is a potential risk of the virus jumping from humans to animals, which may make it endemic in these countries. While China was rightly criticised for keeping the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak a secret for weeks, the developed countries have paid scant attention to stop the outbreak in Nigeria. The low mortality rate of about 1% for the virus clade now in circulation in Europe and North America, the slow rate of mutation, the relative ease of stopping the virus spread, and the availability of vaccines should not be a reason once more to ignore the virus spread in Nigeria. Instead, it should spur more research on the virus and make vaccines and antivirals available in Nigeria and other endemic countries in Africa.

The return of the great power rivalries

The post-Cold War period of peace in Europe is more an aberration than norm in the continent's history of conflicts

STANLY JOHNY

Herr von Tschirschky, a diplomat and politician in imperial Germany, said on New Year's Day 1906 in Hamburg: "Germany's policy always had been, and would be, to try to frustrate any coalition between two states which might result in damaging Germany's interests and prestige; and Germany... would not hesitate to take such steps as she thought proper to break up the coalition." Tschirschky, who would become Foreign Secretary in two weeks, was referring to the Franco-British Entente and Germany's growing concerns about it.

The security situation in Europe was undergoing massive changes. The Russian power had collapsed in its far east after the war with Japan in 1904-05. Faced with the erosion of Russian influence and the rise of Wilhelmine Germany, which together threatened to alter Europe's balance of power, France and Britain, competing colonial powers, came together. France had already reached an alliance with Russia. The three would later form the Triple Entente, triggering a dangerous security competition in Europe with the Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy), which would eventually lead to the First World War in 1914.

Similarities from the past

There are similarities between events in Europe today and what happened in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. What triggered the great power security competition in the run-up to the First World War was the phenomenal rise of Wilhelmine Germany as a military and industrial power and the regional hegemons' response to it. When Otto von Bismarck became the Minister-President of Prussia in September 1862, there was no unified German state. Prussia was part of the loose, ineffective German Confederation. Bismarck adopted an aggressive foreign policy, fought and won three wars – with Denmark, Austria and France – destroyed the confederation, established a stronger and larger German Reich that replaced Prussia.

In the last 20 years of Bismarck's reign, Germany, and Europe at large, saw relative peace. That was not because the Chancellor had turned a peacenik but because he was constrained by the geopolitical realities of Europe. Bismarck stayed focused on transforming Germany internally in his last two decades. It was on the foundation Bismarck built that Wilhelmine Germany turned to *weltpolitik* in the early 20 century, seeking global domination.

If Bismarck inherited a weak, loosely connected group of German speaking entities in 1862, Russian President Vladimir Putin got a Russia in 2000 that was a pale shadow of what was the Soviet Union. Russia had lost huge swathes of territories, its economy was in a free fall, its currency had crashed, the living standards of millions of Russians had collapsed and the global stature of the country, which had been one of the two pillars of the post-War global order for almost half a century, had fallen. Bismarck spent his years in power expanding the borders of Germany and building a stronger state and economy. His successors took it further to challenge the existing great powers in Europe. The post-Cold War Russia initially stayed focused on the restoration of the state and the economy, and then sought to expand its borders and challenge the continent's balance of power – first the Crimean annexation and now the Ukraine invasion.

AFP

The existing great powers in Europe saw Germany as a threat to Europe's balance of power and joined hands to contain its rise. Germany, on the other side, saw the formation of the Entente as an existential threat and took steps to weaken the alliance (The 1905 and 1911 Morocco crises and the German intervention in the Bosnia crisis in 1908). The parallels are hardly to be missed. If Germany was seen as a revisionist power back then, Vladimir Putin's Russia is today's revisionist power in Europe. If Germany felt insecure by the Triple Entente, as Tschirschky warned in 1906, Russia has constantly voiced concerns about the eastward expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). If the Entente countries looked at the rise of Germany as a threat to European power balance, the western alliance continued to see modern Russia as a security challenge, even after the collapse of the Soviet Union. While NATO's expansion deepened Russia's security concerns, driving it into aggressive moves, Russia's aggression has strengthened NATO's resolve to expand further into Russia's neighbourhood.

On 'offensive realism'

The behaviour of 20th century Germany and 21st century Russia can best be explained using what John Mearsheimer calls "offensive realism". Offensive realists argue that "revisionist powers" tend to use force to rewrite the balance of power if they find the circumstances are favourable, while the status quo powers, or the existing regional hegemons, would seek to thwart any new country attaining more power at their expense. The result of this type of competition is permanent rivalry and conflict. Look at Mr. Putin's offensive moves. He sent troops to Georgia, practically ending that country's NATO ambitions. He took Crimea without fighting a war. He sent troops to Syria not just to save the regime of Bashar al-Assad and protect Russia's Mediterranean naval base in Tartus but also to neutralise Turkey and Israel, both Syria's neighbours. He reinforced Russia's primacy in Central Asia by bringing peace to the Nagorno-Karabakh and dispatching forces to restore order in Kazakhstan. These successes probably raised the confidence of Russia, prompting its leaders to believe that it was finally strong enough to change Europe's balance of power forcefully. Then, Russia invaded Ukraine.

But one major difference between the era of Wilhelmine Germany and modern Russia is that there were no well-defined international laws in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The international system has evolved ever since. But its basic instincts, as realists would argue, have not changed much. Mr. Putin's Russia is not the first country that violated the sovereignty of a weaker power and flouted international laws in the "rules-based" order. Nor will it be the last. As the Athenians told the Melians during the Peloponnesian War, "the strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must".

Security competition

As the Ukraine war grinds into its fourth month, there are no clear winners in Europe. Russia apparently had two strategic objectives in Ukraine – one, to expand Russian borders and create a buffer. And two, to reinforce Russia's deterrence against NATO. While Russia has succeeded, though slowly, in expanding its borders by capturing almost all of Ukraine's east, the war has backfired on its second objective – Russia's inability to clinch a quick outright victory in Ukraine and the tactical retreats it has already made have invariably dealt a blow to the perception of Russian power that existed before the war. This has strengthened NATO, driving even Sweden and Finland into its arms. Besides, the economic sanctions would leave a long-term hole in Russia's economy.

But a Russia that is bogged down in Ukraine and encircled by NATO need not enhance Europe's security. Russia's advances in Ukraine may have been slow; it seemed ready to fight a war of attrition like the long wars European countries fought against each other in the past. And despite the strong resistance it faced in Ukraine, Russia remains too strong a military and geopolitical power to be brushed aside. As Henry Kissinger said at Davos, Russia had been and would remain an important element in the European state system.

The prospects are bleak. There will not be peace in Europe unless either Russia accepts its diminished role and goes into another spell of strategic retreat (like it did after the disintegration of the Soviet Union), or Europe and the West in general accommodate Russia's security concerns. Both look unrealistic as of today. This means that even if the war in Ukraine comes to an end, the security contest in Europe would continue. The post-Cold War period of relative peace and stability in Europe, anchored in liberal internationalism, was an aberration rather than a norm in the continent's long history of conflicts. And what makes the latest round of great power rivalry more dangerous is that there are nuclear weapons on both sides.

stanly.johny@thehindu.co.in

Building peace and prosperity with strong BRICS

The BRICS partnership is 'walking together to walk far' to build a community with a shared future for mankind

SUN WEIDONG

As an old Chinese saying goes, nothing can separate people with common goals and ideals; not even mountains and seas. Sixteen years after its creation, BRICS has become an important platform for win-win cooperation among China, India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa, and a significant force for the evolution of international order, the improvement of global governance and the promotion of common development.

Since China took over the BRICS chairmanship at the beginning of this year, we have worked together with BRICS partners to press ahead with cooperation in political security, economy and finance, people-to-people exchanges, public health and other realms. More than 50 important events have been held, contributing to significant progress in various cooperative fields.

On May 19, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a video address at the virtual meeting of BRICS Foreign Ministers. The BRICS Foreign Ministers issued a joint statement. And the first dialogue of Foreign Ministers between BRICS and emerging markets and developing countries was held.

The world today witnesses increasing factors of instability, uncertainty and insecurity. It is of great significance for the BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting to reach consensus and outcomes on multiple important issues concerning global security and development, which made political preparations for the 14th BRICS summit.

The BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting indicated that BRICS countries will strengthen solidarity and cooperation in the face of challenges with firm conviction, and take real actions to promote peace and development, and uphold fairness and justice. We will inject more BRICS strength into global development, and speak with a louder BRICS voice to uphold the common interests of the developing countries.

Upholding universal security

BRICS countries should be builders of universal security. Cold-war mentality and bloc confrontation pose grave threats to world peace and security. Seeking one's own security at the expense of others' will only create new tensions and risks. President Xi Jinping put forward the Global Security Initiative, pointing out the way to make up the peace deficit and solve the global security dilemma. It is important to respect and guarantee the security of every country, replace confrontation and alliance with dialogue and partnership, and promote the building of a balanced, effective and sustainable regional security architecture.

BRICS countries need to strengthen political mutual trust and security cooperation, maintain communication and coordination on major international and regional issues, accommodate each other's core interests and major concerns, respect each other's sovereignty, security and development interests, oppose hegemonism and power politics, and work together to build a global community of security for all.

GETTY IMAGES

BRICS countries should be contributors of common development. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to derail the world economy. The irresponsible macro-economic and monetary policies of certain countries have aggravated the uncertainties and imbalances of economic recovery. President Xi Jinping's Global Development Initiative gives priority to development, embraces the people-centered core concept, and calls for more robust, greener and more sound global development. It provides a Chinese solution to global development problems and has been widely echoed by the international community.

Facing the rising tide of de-globalisation and the increase of unilateral sanctions and technology barriers, BRICS countries should enhance mutually-beneficial cooperation in supply chains, energy, food and financial resilience, take solid steps to implement the Global Development Initiative, foster an open world economy and create a favourable environment for common development.

On health

BRICS countries should be pioneers of cooperation in COVID-19 pandemic management. The international pandemic response is at a critical moment, and we should not give up half way. President Xi Jinping has called for accelerating the building of a global community of health for all, and has advocated a coordinated international approach to the pandemic and the improvement of global health governance. India's vision of 'One Earth, One Health' also contributes to multilateral cooperation on public health. BRICS countries should fully leverage their respective strengths, and jointly promote the development of global health governance in a direction in favour of developing countries. We should make good use of the BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Center, establish a BRICS early warning mechanism for preventing large-scale infectious diseases, and provide high-quality public goods for global health governance cooperation.

A governance philosophy

BRICS countries should be leaders of global governance. Global challenges are emerging one after another. Only by coordinating global actions can we properly cope with them. "Small circles" cannot solve the "big challenges" facing the whole world. BRICS countries should firmly safeguard the international system, with the United Nations at its core and the international order underpinned by international law, and ensure that international affairs have participation by all, international rules are formulated by all, and development outcomes are shared by all. We should embrace a global governance philosophy that emphasises extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, enhance unity and cooperation with emerging markets and developing countries, and increase the voice in global governance.

It is especially commendable that the first dialogue of Foreign Ministers between BRICS and emerging markets and developing countries sent out the message of supporting multilateralism, supporting anti-pandemic cooperation, supporting common development, and supporting solidarity and cooperation. All parties to the dialogue support and advocate the 'BRICS plus' cooperation model, which is a platform born for cooperation and thrives on development. We should explore the 'BRICS plus' cooperation at more levels, in more areas and in a wider scope. China proposes to launch the BRICS expansion process and discuss standards and procedures for expansion in order to build consensus step-by-step. This will increase BRICS countries' representation and influence and make greater contributions to world peace and development.

As an old saying goes, if you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to walk far, walk together. Since the establishment of the BRICS mechanism, it has been closely connected with the destiny of emerging markets and developing countries. China is always a member of the family of the developing world, and will always stand alongside developing countries. We will endeavour to translate the BRICS spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation into concrete actions, deepen the BRICS partnership centering on the theme of 'forming a high-quality partnership to jointly create a new era of global development'; we will make unrelenting efforts to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

Sun Weidong is China's Ambassador to India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

Eight-year rule

It is not clear whether the actions and inactions of the ruling regime in the past eight years do or do not cause shame (Page 1, "Did not cause shame in eight-year rule: Modi", May 29). But in the past eight years, the regime has earned its due share of fame for creating an optics. To be fair, every government will have its own share of successes and failures. But what is the point of projecting it as if it was a case of 'everything went very well during the past eight years', even if it is a strategy to win over the electorate in the State elections?

A. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

■ What about the disastrous demonetisation? What about the equally calamitous COVID-19 lockdown that left many an Indian stranded and even dying on the roads and highways? What about the communal cul-de-sac? What about the disastrous management of the second COVID-19 wave? These have undoubtedly left Indians bow their heads in shame.

Dr. GEORGE JACOB,
Kochi, Kerala

NCB probe

Transparency, accountability, objectivity and prudence are the cornerstone of prosecution in a criminal offence. It also requires concrete evidence and conclusive proof (Page 1, "Aryan Khan gets clean chit in Mumbai 'drugs-on-cruise' case", May 28). These aspects, however, appear to have been lacking in this sensational incident. A few pertinent questions that arise are: why was Aryan Khan targeted at all? Was there some hidden agenda? How will his mental agony, humiliation and the miscarriage of justice be recompensed? The image and the reputation of the NCB have taken a beating

V. JOHAN DHANAKUMAR,
Chennai

■ One could take a generous view that Mr. Khan being given a clean chit by the NCB, by itself may be of lesser note as investigations do take time. It is the engineered sensation behind such episodes that should be of greater concern. There is a growing tendency of the visual media to act as judge and jury. Investigating officers step into the limelight with unsubstantiated bytes. Narratives get moulded and the accused have to wait long for redemption – as is the present case. The Sushant Singh Rajput case followed a similar script. And we are still in the dark on its final development.

R. NARAYANAN,
Navi Mumbai

China's 'inevitable' global dominance

The Chinese assert that the allies and partners of the U.S. cannot count on U.S. power to deter China

SHYAM SARAN

Learning Mandarin in Hong Kong in 1971 soon after he joined the Indian Foreign Service opened "a whole new and fascinating world" for Shyam Saran. "I was coming face to face with a civilization with a long and varied history, a philosophical and cultural heritage of enormous richness, and a view of the world quite distinct and indeed different from others," he writes in the introduction to his new book, How China Sees India and the World. *Saran spent six years in China in two stints and witnessed its "rapid and far-reaching transformation". China is today the world's second largest economy after the U.S., and is already a leader in new-age technologies like artificial intelligence, quantum computing and space exploration. He explains why despite India and China being roughly at the same economic level once, India is now a "retreating image in China's rear-view mirror." An excerpt:*

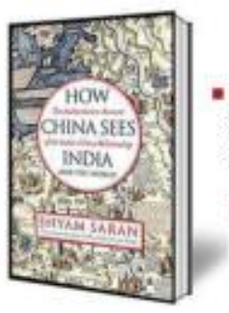
India and China were roughly at the same economic level in 1978, with similar GDP and per capita income. Though China began to grow much faster thereafter, the gap between the two countries was not very significant even a decade later, when the Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi paid a historic visit to Beijing in December 1988. It was then possible for Deng Xiaoping to declare that there could not be an Asian Century without India and China growing together and playing a resurgent role. The surge in India's GDP growth as a result of its own economic reforms and liberalisation policies adopted in the early 1990s expanded India's political and economic profile. At the turn of the century, India was behind China but was seen as shrinking the gap. In the period 2003-2007, India's growth rate accelerated while China's began to slow down. This was the brief period when India's diplomatic options multiplied. It was able to leverage the advance of its relations with one major power to promote its relations with other major powers, thereby expanding its strategic space.

AFP

Border dispute

During the visit of the Indian Prime Minister [Atal Bihari] Vajpayee to China in 2003, two important decisions were taken. One, the two countries agreed to seek an early political solution to the India-China border dispute, instituting regular negotiations at the level of Special Representatives of their respective leaders. The Chinese side also conveyed its recognition of Sikkim as a State of India. It had not accepted the accession of the State to the Indian Union in 1975 and its maps had continued to depict it [Sikkim] as an independent country. The backdrop to these important decisions was the recognition that relations between the two large emerging economies had now acquired a global and strategic dimension, going beyond their bilateral relations. It was, therefore, important to resolve the long-standing border issue in order to enable the two countries to cooperate more closely in the shaping of the emerging regional and global architecture.

This development was carried forward during the subsequent visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to India in April 2005. As Foreign Secretary, I was closely associated with the visit. The Chinese were already aware that India was negotiating a civil nuclear cooperation agreement with the U.S., which would greatly enhance India's diplomatic profile and significantly strengthen the India-U.S. partnership. This encouraged the Chinese to balance this development by upgrading their own relations with India, and this increased India's room for manoeuvre vis-à-vis China. At their meeting, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and [Premier] Wen Jiabao reached a broad consensus on the following lines: One, that China was not a threat to India and India was not a threat to China; Two, that there was enough space in Asia and the world for the simultaneous growth of both India and China; Three, that India was an economic opportunity for China, and China likewise an economic opportunity for India; Four, that as two large and emerging economies the two countries, by working together, could exercise significant influence on the existing global regimes in different domains and could shape new global regimes in emerging domains such as climate change, cyber space and outer space; Five, that India-China relations having thus acquired a global and strategic dimension and in order to enable them to work more effectively together, it was important to resolve the India-China border issue at an early date.



How China sees India and the World
Shyam Saran
Juggernaut
₹799

Impact of financial crisis

The global financial and economic crisis had a major impact on the further development of India-China relations. Just as the asymmetry between the U.S. and China began to shrink in the aftermath of the crisis, the asymmetry between India and China, which had been shrinking earlier, began to expand once again. India's GDP growth decelerated and has averaged about 6-7 per cent per annum since then. China has maintained the same rate of growth as India, but on a much larger base than India's. This asymmetry of power began to be reflected in China showing less sensitivity to India's interests, its steady economic and political penetration of countries in India's periphery and a lower threshold of tolerance to closer relations between India and the U.S. In conversations at non-official meetings, Chinese scholars would often draw attention to the fact that China's economy was five times the size of India's and this could not but reflect in the nature of India-China relations. The implication of such a statement was that India should accept its diminished ranking in the Chinese perception and defer to Chinese interests.

Stepping out of line - a line drawn by China - would invite punitive reactions, and that too is evident in the more recent Chinese moves against India, including its more aggressive posture at the India-China border, where relative peace and tranquillity had prevailed over the past several decades. In 2005, China was willing to make some concessions to India in order to forestall an incipient Indo-U.S. alliance that could be threatening to China. Its reaction to the Quad, which is a coalition of India, Australia, Japan and the U.S., which could constrain China in the Indo-Pacific, is to dismiss its relevance and to adopt an even more threatening posture towards the coalition partners.

In the aftermath of the global financial and economic crisis of 2008, the Chinese assessment is that the U.S. is a declining power, that its credibility is eroded and, importantly, that its will to exercise power has also diminished. It is a power in retreat and, therefore, allies and partners of the U.S., the Chinese assert, cannot count on U.S. power to deter China. A narrative is being built on the inevitability of Chinese regional, and eventually global, dominance, which it would be futile to resist.

Excerpted with permission from Juggernaut Books

Deepening strategic commitment

China is not only the glue that holds the Quad together; it is also the fuel that may drive the grouping's inner consolidation

RAJIV BHATIA

The Quad (the U.S., India, Japan and Australia) held its second in-person leaders' summit in Tokyo on May 24. It has emerged stronger and clearer in its strategy and goals for the security and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific. The efforts by the Quad countries should be viewed not only from the prism of the summits, but also from the wider context of international developments and the continuing process of consolidation of the bilateral relations within, especially U.S.-India ties.

Beyond Ukraine

This is the second interaction of the Quad leaders held after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. That war has no end in sight. With India abstaining from most anti-Russia voting in multilateral bodies, experts in India worried about the impact of Ukraine on the Indo-Pacific region, particularly U.S.-India ties. Some feared that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would face new and intense pressure in Tokyo from the U.S. to condemn Russia. Others argued that the U.S. understood India's nuanced position on Ukraine and may refocus on China's strategic game in the region.

The latter interpretation proved correct. India and the U.S. agreed to disagree on Ukraine, but showed full readiness to further strengthen the Quad and their bilateral cooperation, which, U.S. President Joe Biden said, he was "committed to making...among the closest we have on Earth." With China, he has moved beyond the traditional U.S. stance of 'strategic ambiguity' and pointedly referred to Ukraine to stress that China's armed action against Taiwan would be unacceptable and attract a military response.

The central driving force of the Quad is to counter China's growing expansionism and belligerence. The grouping's diplomatic device of defining its raison d'être without ever using the word 'China' was best reflected in the 'Quad Joint Leaders' Statement' which reads, "We reaffirm our resolve to uphold the international rules-based order where countries are free from all forms of military, economic and political coercion." Thus, China is not only the glue that holds the Quad together; it is also the fuel that may, through Beijing's bad behaviour in the future, drive the grouping's inner consolidation, as shown by an expanding agenda.

The Quad agenda now covers nine sectors: vaccine partnership and health security, climate action, critical and emerging technologies, cooperation on infrastructure, cyber security, space cooperation, education and people-to-people ties, maritime domain awareness, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The Quad claims to have established "a positive and practical agenda" in year one; in year two, it will focus on "delivery." This needs to be watched.

Not all commitments have been met. The promise of making available at least one billion COVID-19 vaccine doses to Indo-Pacific countries has fallen short. Excluding what the Quad countries contributed to COVAX, just 25% have been delivered to the region so far. This needs to be expanded rapidly. Meanwhile, Quad experts have begun planning ways to enhance capacity for early detection and monitoring of "new and emerging pathogens with pandemic potential."

On infrastructure, a new commitment was made at Tokyo for the Quad to extend over $50 billion in investment and assistance to the Indo-Pacific countries over the next five years. While the focus is on the ASEAN countries and the Pacific Island States, a part of this funding should perhaps reach the Indian Ocean region too, with its touch points in Africa. The Common Statement of Principles on Critical Technology Supply Chains is significant, as it concerns cooperation on semiconductors.

The atmospherics of the summit improved significantly after the launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) a day earlier. The joint announcement was made by the Quad, seven ASEAN member-states (excluding Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos), South Korea and New Zealand. The plan is to prepare their economies for the future by conducting negotiations on the pillars of trade; supply chains; tax and anti-corruption and clean energy; decarbonisation and infrastructure. The IPEF is ambitious, but doable.

India's plan

India's constructive participation in the Tokyo summit and agreement to join IPEF demonstrated commitment to strengthening its strategic partnerships in order to push back China's dominance. At the same time, New Delhi has agreed to the expansion of BRICS membership. This simultaneous engagement with the Quad and BRICS is New Delhi's strategic autonomy in full play. India's presidency of the G20 in 2023 and the likelihood of India hosting the Quad summit in 2024 will ensure that it follows a calibrated policy and stays on track, as every major step will attract international attention.

Rajiv Bhatia is Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House and a former Ambassador

STATE OF PLAY

Caste matters in Konaseema

The latest violence is rooted in the unacceptance of Dalit assertion by the dominant castes

SUMIT BHATTACHARJEE

Konaseema, which was carved out of the erstwhile East Godavari district, is a sleepy agrarian district. It is said to be the granary of Andhra Pradesh. But on May 24, Amalapuram, the biggest town in the district, burned as hundreds of members of organisations dominated by the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and the upper castes, such as the Konaseema Parirakshana Samithi and Konaseema Sadhana Samiti, took to the streets opposing the State government's order directing that the name of the district be changed from Konaseema to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema. They broke prohibitory orders and set ablaze the residences of Transport Minister P. Viswaroop and Mummidivaram MLA P. Satish. They also torched buses and threw stones. About 20 policemen, including the district SP and DSP, were injured in the violence. While the government blamed the Opposition parties including the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), the Jana Sena Party, and the BJP for the riots, the Opposition in turn blamed the ruling YSR Congress for the failure of the police in stopping them.

History has shown that the nature of the farming class in this area changes when there is Dalit assertiveness. In Konaseema district, the numerically dominant castes are the Kapus, who are upper castes, the Settibalijas, who are OBCs, and the Dalits. While the Kapus and Settibalijas have a major share of the landholdings and constitute about 60% of the demography, the Dalits are farmhands and account for over 30%. If we consider the whole region of the erstwhile East Godavari district, two statues dominate the landscape. One is of Kapu leader and Congress MLA Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga, who was killed in 1988 during TDP rule, and is considered a 'Kapu Knight'; the other statue is of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

The show of dominance by the Kapus and the Settibalijas has been recorded since Independence. The most number of cases filed under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, in the State are from this area. In most of the cases, the Kapus and the Settibalijas are the accused. For instance, on December 29, 1996, the then independent MLA of Ramachandrapuram, Thota Trimurthulu, a Kapu leader, had allegedly tonsured the heads of two Dalit youth, Koti Chinna Raju and Dandala Venkata Ratnam, and beaten up three others from Venkatayapalem village. The reason reportedly was that the Dalit youth had asserted their rights. After almost 20 years, the case came to trial at a court in Visakhapatnam in 2017. The judgment is still awaited.

All the parties vie for the Kapu, Settibalija and Dalit votes. Every party has members and leaders from these communities. Mr. Viswaroop is from the Dalit community.

All the parties agreed with the State government order of May 19 directing a change in the name of the district to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district. A few days before the order was passed, TDP national president Chandrababu Naidu had visited the area and had promised to change the name of the district once he came to power. Immediately after Mr. Naidu's visit, Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy visited the area and promised the people that the demand would be accepted. But the Kapus and Settibalijas saw this development as an acceptance by the government and the Opposition of Dalit assertiveness. Their anger erupted. Senior police officers who were at the scene of violence say the incident had nothing to do with changing the name of the district but and everything to do with the fact that the demands of the Dalits were being met by the government.

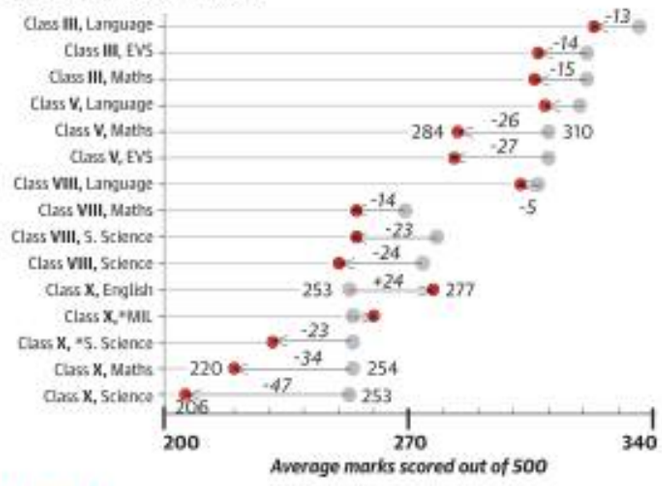
sumit.b@thehindu.co.in

DATA POINT

Not up to the mark

Due to the pandemic, the marks scored by Indian school students in National Achievement Survey (NAS) examinations dropped significantly across classes and in most subjects. NAS exams were conducted on November 12, 2021, across a select sample of schools for Classes III, V, VIII, and X in various subjects. Similar tests were conducted for Classes III, V and VIII in 2017 and for Class X in 2018. Between 2018 and 2021, the average marks scored by a Class X student in the Science exam dropped by 47 marks from 253 to 206. In Maths, the average marks scored dropped by 34 marks from 254 to 220. Such sharp declines were observed across India, except in Punjab and Chandigarh. Marks scored in English were an exception as the Indian average improved by 24 marks in the period.
By **Rebecca Rose Varghese** and **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

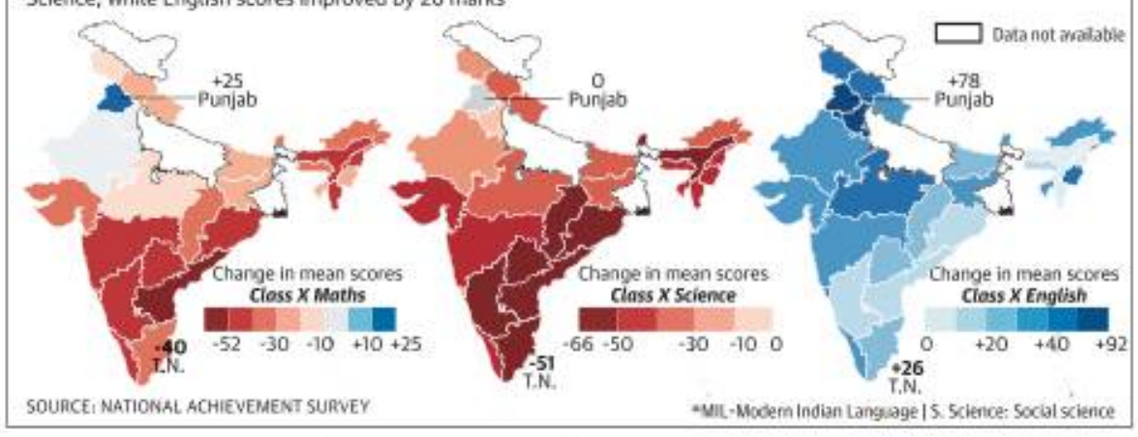
National score | The graph shows the mean marks scored in 2017/2018 and in 2021 across classes and subjects in India. For instance, in 2018, 253 marks were scored on average in the Class X Science exam. In 2020, the mean score reduced to 206, a decline of 47 marks


Class III, Language -13
Class III, EVS -14
Class III, Maths -15
Class V, Language
Class V, Maths 284 -26 310
Class V, EVS -27
Class VIII, Language -5
Class VIII, Maths -14
Class VIII, S. Science -23
Class VIII, Science -24
Class X, English 253 +24 277
Class X, *MIL
Class X, *S. Science -23
Class X, Maths 220 -34 254
Class X, Science -47 206 253
200
270
340
Average marks scored out of 500

Biggest drops in scores | The table lists the standard-subject-State combination in which maximum declines in mean scores were recorded between 2017 and 2021

Name	Change
Class V Maths | Kerala	-63
Class V Maths | Karnataka	-60
Class V Maths | Andhra Pradesh	-58
Class V E.V.S. | Karnataka	-57
Class III Maths | Telangana	-54
Class V E.V.S. | Andhra Pradesh	-54
Class III Language | Andhra Pradesh	-53
Class V E.V.S. | Kerala	-53
Class VIII Social Science | Jharkhand	-53
Class VIII Science | Jharkhand	-52
Class VIII Social Science | Andhra	-52
Class V Maths | Telangana	-51
Class V Maths | Uttarakhand	-51
Class VIII Social Science | Gujarat	-51
Class VIII Science | Rajasthan	-50

Class X scores | The maps show the decrease in mean scores between 2018 and 2021 in **Class X Maths, Class X Science and Class X English**. For instance, in Tamil Nadu, there was a decline of 40 marks in Maths and 51 marks in Science, while English scores improved by 26 marks



SOURCE: NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SURVEY

*MIL-Modern Indian Language | S. Science: Social science

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 30, 1972

Veteran actor Prithviraj dead

Bombay, May 29: Mr Prithviraj Kapoor, veteran film and stage actor, died here to-day after prolonged illness. He was 66. He is survived by his wife, three sons, all noted actors, the famous of whom is Raj Kapoor, and a daughter. Prithviraj had been admitted a month ago to the Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital. Prithviraj Kapoor had the distinction of acting in the first Indian talkie, "Alam Ara", and later in several hits, "Mogh-ul-e-Azam," being the one in recent times. Honoured as a fellow of the Sangeet Natak Akademy, Prithiviraj had to his credit a special award of the National Academy of Arts and Muses, Czechoslovakia in July 1966 for acting in "Aasman Mahal". Born in 1906, Prithviraj was educated in Samundari, Lyalipur and Peshawar. He was associated with the film industry from 1931. He worked with the New Theatres, Ranjit Studios and ran his own Prithvi Theatres for 16 years. His earlier films include Vidyapati, Manzil, Sikandar, Awara, Seeta, India Today, Visha Kanya, and Pagal while the plays he produced include Shakuntala, Ahooti and Ghaddaar. Late Prithviraj Kapoor was a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha for eight years. He was an active supporter of the freedom movement.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 30, 1922

Caste reform in Kerala

Cochin, May 29: The fourth anniversary of the Sahodara Sangham an organisation that stands for the removal of all social barriers among the Hindus, was held on Saturday at Cranganore, under the president-ship of Mr. T.K. Madhavan, Editor "Desabimanai" and the leader of the temple-entry movement in Travancore. After the usual welcome address by Mr. P.K. Kumaran and the Chairman's introductory speech Messrs. A. Velu Menon and G.E. Augustine spoke expressing sympathy with the social aspirations of the Eazhavas and urging the immediate removal of their numerous disabilities. Mr. Menon particularly emphasised the responsibilities of the Nair community in securing for their brethren their social and religious freedom. Mr. K. Aiyappan next explained the aims and objects of the Sahodara Sangham after which resolutions were passed advocating the anti-drink campaign and its preliminary discontinuance of toddy-tapping; also recognising their and right of entry and worship in Sirkar Hindu temples.

FROM PAGE ONE

Centre retracts caution on Aadhaar copies

Hotels and cinema halls weren't authorised to collect photocopies of Aadhaar.

Following this advisory, social media erupted with claims that the advisory had come too late as several outlets – from hospitals to hotels – insisted on retaining photocopies of Aadhaar cards.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said, "The release advised people to not to share photocopy of their Aadhaar with any organisation as it can be misused. Alternatively, a masked Aadhaar which displays only the last four digits of Aadhaar number, can be used. However, in view of the possibility of misinterpretation of the press release, the same stands withdrawn."

Punjabi Singer Sidhu Moosewala shot dead

Former Chief Minister Captain (retired) Amarinder Singh blamed the continuously deteriorating law and order situation in Punjab for the murder of the young singer.

"The AAP government has been a complete failure on the law and order front and I have been saying it since the beginning."

He criticised the State government's decision to withdraw Mr. Moosewala's security without assessing his threat perception.

"Responsibility must be fixed as to why his security was withdrawn," he added.

Flight with 22 people goes missing in Nepal

"As the search operations carried out in possible sites have been hindered due to the hilly terrain and bad weather, the status of the aircraft is still unknown," the CAAN statement said. "However, the Rescue Coordination Centre remains open 24 hours and the search operations will be intensified through air as well as land routes," it added.

A Nepal Army spokesman said troops and the helicopter with rescue teams were trying to locate the possible incident site – believed to be in and around Lete, Mustang.

He said the Army had "halted all efforts of search and rescue for today [Sunday] due to loss of daylight and adverse weather. The search will resume early in the morning on Monday both from air and ground." The search and rescue team was on standby at Jomsom, he added.

Embassy's tweet

In a tweet, the Indian embassy in Nepal issued an emergency hotline number: +977-9851107021.

"Tara Air flight 9NAET that took off from Pokhara at 9.55 a.m. today [on Sunday] with 22 people onboard, including four Indians, has gone missing. Search and rescue operation is on. The embassy is in touch with their family," it said.

The crew of the aircraft was led by captain Prabhakar Prasad Ghimire. Utsav Pokhrel is the co-pilot while Kismi Thapa is the air hostess, said Pokhara Airport Information Officer Dev Raj Adhikari. The aircraft was scheduled to land at the Jomsom airport at 10.15 a.m.

The aircraft lost contact with the tower from the sky above Ghorepani on the Pokhara-Jomsom air route, aviation sources said.

Suspected crash

According to an air traffic controller at the Jomsom airport, they have an unconfirmed report about a loud noise in Ghasa of Jomsom. It was suspected that the aircraft crashed in the Dhaulagiri area. A Nepal Army helicopter carrying 10 soldiers and two employees of the civil aviation authority landed on the bank of a river near the Narshang Monastery, the possible site of the crash, Prem Nath Thakur, general manager of the Tribhuvan International Airport, was quoted as saying.

"The cell phone of Captain Ghimire of the missing aircraft has been ringing and the Nepal Army's helicopter has landed in the possible accident area after tracking the captain's phone from Nepal Telecom," Mr. Thakur said.

According to Chief District Officer of Myagdi Chiranjibi Rana, local people reported that the plane made two circles at Khaibang and headed to Kiti Danda near Lete Pass (2,500m).

An MI-17 helicopter of the Nepal Army has also been dispatched from Kathmandu. The family members of the missing crew and passengers have gathered at the Pokhara airport.

Diversity strengthens us, says Narendra Modi

"Today, through her [Kalpana] hard work, she has set an example for all of us. Similarly, there are many people in our country who are working towards strengthening the linguistic diversity of the country," Mr Modi said.

Prime Minister's endorsement to diversity in languages comes at a time when the Opposition parties had recently alleged that the Centre is trying to impose Hindi on all States. They were anguished over a statement by Union Home Minister Amit Shah that Mr. Modi has decided that the medium of running the Government is the official language and this will definitely increase the importance of Hindi.

He recently told the Parliamentary Official Language Committee that now the time has come to make the official language an important part of the unity of the country.

Senior Opposition politicians, including Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, had questioned this. Mr. Stalin urged the Centre not to repeat the same old mistakes. "Does Mr. Amit Shah believe that Hindi-speaking States alone are enough and that Indian States are not required?" he said.

The Prime Minister also said the number of unicorn start-ups in the country had reached the figure of 100. "The total valuation of these unicorns is more than $330 billion, that is, more than ₹25 lakh crore. Certainly, this is a matter of pride for every Indian. You will also be surprised to know that out of our total unicorns, 44 came up last year. Not only that, 14 more Unicorns were formed anew in 3-4 months this year. This means that even in this phase of the global pandemic, our start-ups have been creating wealth and value," he said in the address.

Myanmar Minister may not get ASEAN meet call

New Delhi caught between international pressure on engaging with military junta and India's own ties with its neighbour

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Caught between international pressure over how to engage with the Myanmar military junta regime and India's own ties with its neighbour, the Union government is likely to not include the Myanmar Foreign Minister at the India-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting to be hosted by the External Affairs Minister (EAM) in mid-June.

The decision marks a departure from India's attendance at the regional BIMSTEC meeting in Colombo in March, where Myanmar's junta-appointed Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin was invited as a virtual participant, which came in for protest by the United States. New Delhi's decision is likely to risk a boycott of the India-ASEAN event in Delhi by Myanmar.

According to several official and diplomatic sources, India has decided to follow the consensus of ASEAN countries instead, to invite only a "non-political", "non-military" representative to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers and U.S.-ASEAN meetings.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is sending invitations to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U. Chan Aye, for both the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on June 15 and the Foreign Ministers' meeting on June 16 and 17, the sources confirmed.

Final call today

Myanmar's response is still not clear and a final call is expected on Monday, when the MEA has called Delhi-based diplomats of all ASEAN countries – Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar – to a logistics meeting to prepare for the 12th "Delhi Dialogue" or India-ASEAN FM meeting.

Wunna Maung Lwin

The MEA declined to comment on the issue.

India has thus far chosen to take an independent line on Myanmar, including at the UN Security Council, after Western countries imposed sanctions on the Myanmar military government that deposed the elected National Unity Government (NUG) led by Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy.

India has stressed the need for a restoration of democratic processes, and release of all political leaders and abiding by the ASEAN's five-point consensus.

Joint consensus

The ASEAN five-point consensus on Myanmar, which was adopted in April 2021, calls for an immediate end to violence in the country, dialogue among all parties, the appointment of a special envoy, humanitarian assistance by ASEAN, and the special envoy's visit to Myanmar to meet with all parties.

India had decided not to boycott the Myanmar government, and officials including then Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla had visited Naypyitaw and Yangon in 2021 and met with the coup leader General Min Aung Hlaing.

In March this year, India had also agreed to attend a summit of the seven-nation Bay of Bengal Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), that includes Myanmar and Thailand, which the Myanmar Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin attended virtually, in sessions also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

Protesting the inclusion of the Minister, the United States had issued sharp demarches to both Sri Lanka, as the host, and to India, which had backed the decision.

When asked, a senior MEA official had said that "the success of cooperation activities on this platform [BIMSTEC], requires all countries to be present and to participate in that cooperation activities.

Myanmar is an important constituent member of the BIMSTEC and it has a very important geography.

However, for the India-ASEAN meeting, New Delhi has decided to go with the practice adopted by ASEAN at its summit in Brunei in October 2021, and the ASEAN FM meet in Cambodia in February this year.

Angered by the "downgrade" in its status, Myanmar's Foreign Ministry had refused to send Chan Aye, and officials said it would likely also protest a similar decision by New Delhi.

At the U.S.-ASEAN summit hosted by U.S. President Joseph Biden in Washington on May 12 this year, the U.S. had kept an "empty chair" for Myanmar, and American officials had met with representatives of the now-deposed National Unity Government on the sidelines of the summit.

Ambitious future: Nirmala Sitharaman speaks during the third Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence (NADI) conclave, in Guwahati on Sunday. • PTI

'Projects worth ₹1.34 lakh cr. to boost northeast connectivity'

Pumping money to develop rail, road, air networks: Nirmala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said the Centre is implementing various rail, road and air connectivity projects worth ₹1,34,200 crore in Northeast India. Addressing the "Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence (NADI)" conclave here, she said the Union government had been pumping in huge money to develop a number of infrastructure projects throughout the region.

"We are carrying out 20 railway projects worth ₹74,000 crore for 2,011 km, which are spread across the northeast," Ms. Sitharaman said.

The Centre is also developing 4,000 km of roads in the region at a total cost of ₹58,000 crore, she added.

"There are 15 ongoing air connectivity projects in the northeast, costing around ₹2,200 crore," the Finance Minister said. However, she did not mention the completion period for these projects. Ms. Sitharaman said the number of 'Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Routes' had been increased to 10 from the existing eight.

"These Protocol Routes are reviewed every five years. There was a review in May 2022," she said.

Improved connectivity

The Union Minister said the national waterways on the Ganga, the Brahmaputra and the Barak were being developed. She said India and Bangladesh had 50 riverine systems which could be leveraged for all types of transportation as the cost of travel through water was the least when compared to air, road and rail networks.

"The government is further developing the National Waterways (NW)-1 on the Ganga, NW-2 on the Brahmaputra and NW-16 on the Barak," Ms. Sitharaman said. She said the entire area between Sadiya and Dhubri in Assam along the Brahmaputra was being developed for better connectivity.

The Eastern Waterways Connectivity Transport Grid, once completed, will offer seamless connectivity not only between the northeast and the rest of India but also on the subcontinent, she said.

The Central government is developing several projects focusing on power transmission and distribution, mobile networks, and broadband connectivity in the region, she said.

When bail conditions border on the absurd

Does liberty hinge on judges' whims?

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court continues to be met with bail conditions which span from unreasonable to the oddball, imposed by the High Courts, prompting the question whether personal liberty hinges on the whims of individual judges.

Recently, the top court stayed an Allahabad High Court order which insisted that Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan be granted regular bail in a land grabbing case only if he fully cooperated with the measuring, walking and barb-wiring of the disputed property by local revenue authorities.

The apex court said the condition "exceeded settled parameters" of bail conditions. The condition, the court noted, was "disproportionate and has no reasonable link with the conditions which are required to be imposed to secure the presence of the accused to ensure that the fairness of trial is not impeded".

A shocking order from the Madhya Pradesh High Court last year allowed bail to a suspected molester provided he visited his victim at her home and "allowed" her to tie a *rakhi* on him.

Setting aside the order in a scathing judgment, the Supreme Court said "using *rakhi* tying as a condition for bail transforms a molester into a brother by a judicial mandate". The law of bail, it said, does not countenance a scenario in which a victim can potentially be traumatised many times over and be led to accept or condone a serious offence. The court proscribed judges from granting bail to suspected sexual offenders on the condition that they perform "community service" or apologise to their victims.

Bar on social media use

In another case in 2020, the Allahabad High Court granted bail to an accused on the condition that he does not use social media till the conclusion of his sedition trial. These curious cases present themselves once in a while before the top court. In 2009, the court expressed its intent to go into the larger question of trial courts and High Courts imposing "irrelevant" bail conditions.

The case in question at the point of time was that of two persons who were ordered by the Madras High Court to perform "community service" at an orphanage for three hours every day for a week. The apex court had set aside the condition. But even the top court did not interfere with a condition imposed on the duo by the High Court – to hoist the National Flag in front of their houses daily for a week.

The Supreme Court has held that courts should maintain a balance between the personal liberty of the accused and investigational right of the police while examining the question of bail.

IN BRIEF

Ranas, supporters, booked on fresh charges

PUNE

Independent MP from Amravati Navneet Rana and her MLA husband Ravi Rana landed in fresh trouble after the Maharashtra police booked the duo along with 14 of their supporters for allegedly causing noise pollution and violating traffic norms during a 'welcome procession', said police.

'Pak drone with magnetic bombs shot down in J-K'

JAMMU

Ahead of the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, police on Sunday shot down a Pakistani drone carrying seven magnetic bombs and as many UBGL grenades in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior police officer said. This is the third Pakistani drone with a payload of arms and ammunition being shot down by the forces in Jammu sector since June 2020. PTI

'Japan's plan depends on India's atmosphere'

GUWAHATI

Japanese Deputy Chief of Mission in India Kawazu Kunihiko on Sunday said the investment target of five trillion yen over the next five years from his country will depend on the "investment atmosphere" in India.

When asked what he meant by "investment atmosphere", he said stable energy supply, thrust on infrastructure development and stability in policy are prime to attract capital to India. PTI

Tripura man back from Bangladesh jail

A CORRESPONDENT
AGARTALA

An Indian man who entered Bangladesh illegally in an intoxicated state has returned home after spending four years in a jail in the neighbouring country. Bangladesh police officials handed him over to their Indian counterparts at the Belonia Muhurighat check post in Tripura on Sunday.

Four years ago, Rajkumar Bauri, 35, of the Sidhai area in West Tripura district, an alcoholic, boarded a bus to Sabroom in south Tripura covering a distance of 172 km. After alighting at Sabroom, he drank again and walked towards the International Border. He gave the slip to the BSF and entered Bangladesh.

Bangladesh police detained him at Rampur and sent him to the Khagrachari police station. He was tried in a local court on the charge of trespass and was sentenced to four years in jail.

Indians in Russia send relief supplies for Russian soldiers

Two consignments of medicines have been sent so far

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Members of the Indian community in Russia are mobilising relief supplies to support Russian soldiers fighting in Ukraine.

Earlier in May, Abhay Singh, an Indian-origin Deputy of the Kursk City Assembly, handed over the first consignment of medicines to the local commander of the Russian forces in Kursk, near Ukraine-Russia border. So far, the Indian community has sent two consignments of medicines under the initiative of Disha: Russian-Indian Friendship Society.

Founded by Rameshwar Singh, a leading Indian-origin journalist and businessman in Moscow, the society procured the medicines from Panbio Pharma in Moscow. "This is just the beginning. We will send many more consignments of medicines and other essentials to Russian soldiers and their families as they continue to fight in Ukraine," Dr. Singh said, speaking over phone from Moscow.

Rameshwar Singh

Dr. Singh said the consignments are being delivered to Kursk, near the Ukraine border, and their gesture was finding widespread appreciation. In the coming weeks, Disha's team is planning to undertake trips to Donetsk and Luhansk, with the Russian military likely to give permission for sending supplies to the local population living in the middle of the war zone.

Dr. Singh said the relief supplies were being mobilised by the Indian community with help of various commercial entities that are supportive of the war effort. Launched in 2010, Disha is supported by Indian citizens, businessmen and students, and draws from Dr. Singh's large network of connections.

Hailing from Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Singh studied at the Centre of Russian Studies in Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1980 and left for Moscow in 1982. He then stayed on in Russia, working as a journalist and a business consultant. In 2019, U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath awarded him with the *Apravasi Bharatiya Ratan Puraskar*.

Dr. Singh said the war has deepened Russia's ties with the Indian community in Russian cities.

He also said that there are around 20,000 Indians in Russia.

CPWD engineers plan protest across country

'Illegal detention of two in J&K'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

An association of Central Public Works Department engineers is planning to hold protests against alleged misbehaviour by a senior officer with two CPWD engineers in Jammu and Kashmir on May 31, an office-bearer said on Sunday.

Central PWD Engineers Association vice-president Y.K. Tomer said the engineers would hold protests during lunch hour on May 31 and had intimated the authorities about the same. He added that the association demanded that the engineers do not face "high-handedness" in the future.

The association on May 26 wrote to J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha alleging "harassment and illegal detention" of CPWD officers by Shri Amarnath Shrine Board CEO Nitishwar Kumar. It said two CPWD officials had been "illegally detained" for 10 hours by the Ramban police.

APPEAL

I am Vinitha aged 18 years seeking your support in bringing a lasting change and a new life. I suffer from Acute Myeloid Leukemia and have to undergo Allogenic Bone Marrow Transplantation at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. I urgently need **Rs.16,00,000/-** for my surgery and supportive care. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G (T)**Please do not mention patient name on the cheque)**

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, D.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401(28235324/7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

Vinitha

Azad, Anand Sharma don't figure on RS list of Congress

Chidambaram among the 10 nominees announced by party

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Ending the suspense over its Rajya Sabha nominees, the Congress late on Sunday evening released its list of 10 candidates for the Rajya Sabha elections.

In the party-ruled States of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, all the nominees are "outsiders", negating demands from some quarters that berths from these poll-bound States should be given to local leaders.

The list does not include Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma, both key members of G-23 or the ginger group that had been pushed for internal reforms and collective leadership in a letter to party president Sonia Gandhi in August 2020. However, two G-23 leaders have been included: Mukul Wasnik will be fielded from Rajasthan while Vivek Tankha has been named from Madhya Pradesh.

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram will be the party's nominee from Tamil Nadu, while Jairam Ramesh will be repeated from Karnataka.

Mr. Chidambaram, who earlier represented Maharashtra, now moves to his home State from where his son, Karti, is a Lok Sabha member.

Most of the nominees bear a clear imprint of former party chief Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Gandhis' imprint

The party's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala has been made a nominee from Rajasthan, while Ajay Maken has been made a nominee from Haryana. Both the leaders are known for their proximity to Mr. Gandhi.

Similarly, leaders from Uttar Pradesh who are believed to be close to Ms. Vadra have been accommodated. These include Rajeev Shukla who will be fielded from Chhattisgarh, Imran Pratapgarhi from Maharashtra, and Pramod Tiwari from Rajasthan. Mr Tiwari's daughter, Aradhana Mishra, is an MLA from Uttar Pradesh.

Ranjeet Ranjan, former Lok Sabha member from Supaul (Bihar), will be the second candidate from Chhattisgarh.

Though there was much speculation about rehabilitating key G-23 leaders like Mr. Azad and Mr. Sharma, they have been left out. However, both have been made members of the Political Advisory Group that will advise Congress president Sonia Gandhi on a regular basis.

The most outspoken G-23 leader, Kapil Sibal, had quit the party earlier in the week and filed his nomination as an Independent candidate with the backing of the Samajwadi Party.

R.C.P. Singh out, JD(U) names its Jharkhand chief for RS polls

Steel Minister will have to resign from post unless BJP sends him to Upper House

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The Janata Dal(U) has declared the candidature of its Jharkhand State unit president Kheero Mahto for the single seat that it expects to win in the latest round of Rajya Sabha elections from Bihar, leaving Union Steel Minister R.C.P. Singh high and dry.

Mr. Singh, currently a Rajya Sabha member, will have to resign from the Union Cabinet unless he can get the BJP to send him to the Upper House. The BJP, however, on Sunday, has declared two candidates for the two seats it is likely to win from Bihar.

Mr. Singh joined the Union Cabinet in July 2021, during the last round of reshuffle. His induction had caused a lot of consternation within the Janata Dal(U).

In 2019, the party rejected the single berth that the BJP was offering citing proportional representation. Back then, the JD(U) had asserted that it needed four Cabinet berths at par with the Bihar BJP nominees in the Cabinet. But in 2021, Mr. Singh, who was then the party's national president, negotiated on behalf of the party. And to the dismay of everyone, he not only settled for a single berth but also secured it for himself.

Past camaraderie: Nitish Kumar and R.C.P. Singh. • FILE PHOTO

Following this, there were no public congratulatory message from Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Neither did he attend the swearing-in ceremony of his colleague. Party insiders saw this as a clear message to Mr. Singh on Nitish Kumar's disappointment.

The JD(U) decision to omit Mr. Singh is also being seen as a message to the BJP. The two allies who have been together since 1995 barring a small break post 2014, have been going through a tenuous phase.

Different strokes

Mr. Kumar has asserted his commitment for a caste census, which makes the BJP deeply uneasy. It looks upon caste census as a divisive device that could fragment its united Hindutva vote on caste lines. Equally, he has been seen in company of RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, including attending an *Iftaar* party hosted by him, making the BJP uncomfortable

The JD(U) meanwhile is clear that if the BJP renominates Mr. Singh from elsewhere to keep his position in Union Cabinet intact then the two allies will find it difficult to continue. "We have been tolerant but we won't take any insult lying down," a JD(U) MP said.

BJD names four RS candidates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Sunday announced names of four candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha election.

The party has renominated Sasmit Patra for the second time. The BJD, which has 113 MLAs in the 147-member house in Odisha, is comfortably placed to send three members to the Upper House unopposed. Meanwhile, election for the fourth seat will be held if the Bharatiya Janata Party or the Congress decides to field a candidate.

However, both the parties do not have requisite numbers to back any candidate. Therefore, the fourth candidate is also expected to find a berth.

The four candidates are Mr. Patra; Manas Ranjan Mangaraj, a former journalist; Niranjan Bishi, a tribal activist; and Sulata Deo, the party spokesperson.

MP crossed the line, says WB Governor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Calling the remarks targeting a section of judiciary as "reprehensible", West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday sought action against Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee for his remarks made on Saturday. "Attacking a Judge who ordered CBI probe into the SSC scam is condemnable. The honourable MP crossed the red line. I will ask the Chief Secretary to initiate action into what happened yesterday," Mr. Dhankhar said.

BJP announces 18 Rajya Sabha nominees

Ex-MLA who gave up seat for Yogi Adityanath is among the names fielded from Uttar Pradesh

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Sunday announced two lists of 18 candidates from various States for the biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha necessitated by the retirement of 57 members.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been repeated as a nominee from Karnataka, as has Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal from Maharashtra. The name of Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, another Cabinet Minister, was, however, not included in this list but with two more nominees yet to be named from Uttar Pradesh (from where the BJP is to get eight out of 11 seats) and one more from Madhya Pradesh, the jury is still out.

Interestingly, the party has announced the name of Dhananjay Mahadik as a third candidate from Maharashtra, where the party has numbers for two unopposed wins out of the six seats, and has decided to contest a third seat. Jharkhand BJP general secretary Aditya Sahu has been fielded from Jharkhand.

From Uttar Pradesh, the BJP fielded its former State unit chief Laxmikant Bajpai, as well as Radha Mohan Agarwal who had given up his Assembly seat of Gorakhpur (urban) in favour of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in the recently held Assembly polls. The nominees include Surendra Singh Nagar (who has been repeated), Baburam Nishad, Darshana Singh and Sangeeta Yadav.

Radha Mohan Agarwal

The BJP fielded Kalpana Saini, chief of the Uttarakhand BJP backward class morcha, as its nominee from the single seat from Uttarakhand in the fray.

A surprise pick from Rajasthan was former State unit chief and party veteran Ghanshyam Tiwari, who had even hopped over to the Congress and is known to be inimical to former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje. Krishan Lal Panwar has been fielded from Haryana.

The BJP announced the names of Satish Chandra Dubey and Shambhu Sharan Patel from the two seats it can win from Bihar.

Sources in the BJP said a second list for nominees in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand was likely to be out soon. "It is very much possible that the party may announce a candidate for the second seat in Haryana," said a source.

Polls are to be held on June 10 if there is a contest for the seats, otherwise, candidates will be declared elected unopposed.

Parties raise call for an equality commission

RLD organises social justice meet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) on Sunday marked the 35th death anniversary of former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh with a social justice conference where several political parties raised demands for an equality commission and a caste census.

Chaudhary Jayant Singh

The resolution, which was presented by former Union Minister Srikant Jena, said a true tribute to Chaudhary Charan Singh would be an attempt to provide practical solutions to the problems of unemployment, agricultural distress and the lack of a voice. Mr. Jena proposed the establishment of a new economic policy that would focus on job creation instead of wealth creation; undertaking a caste census to be held immediately to enable "targeted affirmative action for those communities that have been left behind"; setting up a social justice commission or an equal opportunities commission to analyse the caste census data and recommend affirmative action for public and private sectors; and a "regional balance commission".

RLD national president and Chaudhary Charan Singh's grandson, Jayant Chaudhary, said it was important to hold social justice programmes across States.

"It is sad that we have to hold a programme on social justice so many years after Independence and talk of public awareness campaigns... It is a Constitutional right," he said.

He said while there were separate commissions for Scheduled Castes, OBCs and minorities, there was a need for the communities to unite.

Idea finds support

The RLD's call found support from RJD leader Sharad Yadav, JD(U) leader K.C. Tyagi, Aam Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh, CPI(M) leader Subhasini Ali, former Delhi Assembly Speaker Yoganand Shastri, Trinamool Congress MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, RJD MP Manoj Jha, TIPRA chief Pradyot Manikya Deb Barman, Apna Dal (K) leader Krishna Patel and Swaraj India's Yogendra Yadav.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Sharad Yadav said the country was in trouble today and "such a situation wasn't there during the Emergency". He said the Opposition was divided and there was a need for a mass leader like Chaudhary Charan Singh today.

LS Speaker urged to act on 'intimidation' of Karti

Adhir Ranjan writes letter to Om Birla

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha member Karti P. Chidambaram and his family are being selectively targeted in the name of investigation, Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said on Sunday in a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and urged Mr. Birla to protect the parliamentary privileges of Opposition members.

The Congress leader also charged the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) with taking away sensitive and confidential parliamentary papers from Mr. Karti and accused the government of trying to stifle the voice of the Opposition.

"A Member of Parliament is constitutionally conferred with certain parliamentary privileges so that he can discharge his parliamentary duties without any fear or favour from the government. However, during the present regime, the opposition members are being targeted and intimidated and their parliamentary privileges are being breached. In this regard, I may like to cite the case of Shri. Karti P. Chidambaram (M.P.). He and his family are being selectively targeted in the name of 'so called' raid and investigation," Mr. Chowdhury wrote in his letter.

"The CBI is intimidating him and worse, they have seized confidential and sensitive parliamentary papers. This is nothing but intimidation and an attempt by the government to stifle the voice of the opposition in Parliament," he added

Stating that "targeted intimidation" of an MP amounts to breach of privilege, Mr. Chowdhury further wrote, "Sir, you are the custodian and guardian of the dignity of the House and also the rights and privileges of the members of the Lok Sabha. I appeal to you that as the guardian of the Lower House, you may kindly intervene and protect the rights and privileges of the opposition members so that they can discharge their parliamentary duties fearlessly and effectively."

Modi gave peace to Gujarat in his role as CM, says Shah

'Congress tenure was marred by communal riots'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for establishing peace in communally sensitive State while accusing the past Congress governments of spreading communal riots for achieving political goals.

According to the Home Minister, before the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power and Narendra Modi became the Chief Minister, Gujarat grappled with communal riots, curfews, and with issues like smuggling of narcotics, arms and RDX through the international border.

He added that law and order was the biggest issue during the Congress regimes and curfews were frequent during their tenure. He said this while inaugurating various police housing projects in parts of the State from Nadiad in Central Gujarat.

"For many years, Congress worked to make communities fight against each other internally, spread communal riots, and tear apart the law and order," Mr. Shah said.

The Home Minister visited a costal police centre in Dwarka and attended a gathering of members of cooperative societies.

On Sunday, he inaugurated the police housing projects and laid the foundation for a mega sports enclave that is being set up in a 20-acre plot in Ahmedabad's Naranpura area, which is part of Mr. Shah's Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency.

Home ground: Amit Shah at the foundation laying ceremony of a sports complex in Ahmedabad. • PTI

As the State Assembly polls are inching closer, Mr. Shah used the opportunity to take on the Opposition party that was last in power in the State in 1995.

"Communal clashes were certain during Lord Jagannath *Rath Yatra*. But after BJP came to power, has anyone dared to attack the *Rath Yatra*? Those who dared do so are behind bars now," Mr. Shah said.

NGOs push for action on TRIPS waiver

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A group of non-governmental organisations has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to prod the Union Commerce Ministry into "proactively engaging" with a draft proposal at the World Trade Organisation-TRIPS in Geneva to waive intellectual property rights governing COVID-19 vaccines, drugs and diagnostics. Signatories include Pratibha Sivasubramanian of Campaign for Access to Medicines, Diagnostics and Devices-India, Forum for Medical Ethics Society, Mumbai and All India Drug Action Network.

Coal India Limited
(A Maharatna Company)

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd **www.coalindia.in/** respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in**. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**".

CENTRE FOR BRAIN RESEARCH (CBR)
An autonomous Centre of the Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore – 560 012, Ph. No: 080 2293 3588
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION
Centre for Brain Research (CBR) invites applications from eligible and highly motivated applicants for admission to **full time Ph.D. Program** beginning on **01st August 2022.** CBR promotes interdisciplinary research in basic and clinical neuroscience to understand disorders of the aging brain.
CBR is a recognized research centre for Ph.D. program by Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Karnataka. The degree will be awarded by MAHE.
Last date for **online** submission of application is **13th June 2022.**
For areas of research at CBR, admission process and other information, please refer the webpage **www.cbr.iisc.ac.in**
Sd/- Director

BJP misusing probe agencies, says Soren

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Drawing parallels with the case of actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan who was recently given a clean chit by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said on Sunday that investigative agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) were being misused by the BJP.

Mr. Soren, who met a group of journalists in Delhi, said the ED was investigating embezzlement of funds worth ₹4 crore in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) dating back to 2006.

"The scam was reported in two districts – Khunti and Chhatra. I doubt if ED officials have visited the two districts even once. They are trying to target something else through this scam. But I want to say that nobody can harm me," Mr. Soren said. He said he had not received any summons from the agency so far nor had they given any public statement regarding the investigation in the MGNREGS scam.

Mr. Soren said consensus had been reached with the Congress for the Rajya Sabha seat. "I was in a meeting with Sonia Gandhi *ji* for more than an hour yesterday [on Saturday]. We have decided the candidate, it will be announced in a couple of days in Jharkhand," he said.

The Chief Minister is also facing queries by the Election Commission over an office-of-profit allegation that he allotted to himself a stone quarrying unit on government land outside Ranchi in 2021 while he also held the Mines portfolio. Under Section 9A of the Representation of the People Act, Mr. Soren could face disqualification for entering into a government contract. Mr. Soren said, "They are accusing me of a stone-chipping scam of a very small land. Being a Chief Minister why will I indulge myself in such a small scam? We have come from jungles, may be my intellectual capacity is inferior."

The Chief Minister also demanded a classification of Adivasis or Scheduled Tribes in the census exercise.

KMML *The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.*
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
(An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)
Sankaramangalam, Chavara - 691 583 Kollam, Kerala, India.
Phone: +91-476-2601215 to 2601217. Fax : +91-0476-2680101.
Email: contact@kmml.com , URL:www.kmml.com
SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE
Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal : **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** or **www.kmml.com**

No	Tender Id	Name of the Work
1	2022_KMML_492055_1	For the supply of Plate Inconnel Pipe
2	2022_KMML_491590_1	For the supply of Safety shoes Leather-Black
3	2022_KMML_491957_1	For the supply of Brick Acid Resistant for Digester
Chavara 27.05.2022		sd/-DGM(Mtls) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd
4	2022_KMML_490317_1	Supply, assistance in erection & commissioning of thyristor controller and transformer unit for Magnesium Recycling Plant (MRP) project at the Titanium Sponge Plant (TSP), KMML
Chavara 27.05.2022		sd/-HOD(TSP) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Rutile, Zircon & Sillimanite

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)
Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 560 011 Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com
No. SGITO/e-Tender/Lab Items/Others/01/2022-23 Date: 27.05.2022
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e- Procurement)
Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bangalore - 11 invites tender from the eligible tenderers through the e-procurement portal of GOK for:-
(1) Chemicals & Reagents
(2) Hospital Necessary Items
(3) Linen Items
(4) Surgical Instruments
(1) The Tenderers can download the documents from: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **30.05.2022** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **30.06.2022** upto **4.00** PM.
(2) The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept / reject or cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.
DIPR/674/2022-23
Sd/- Chief Administrative Officer, Tender Inviting Authority

The life of a promising young singer is cut short

An inspiration to her colleagues and a pillar of support for her family, the Haryanvi folk singer met a tragic end

ABHINAY LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI

Parul, a 28-year-old Haryanvi folk singer, who gained fame for her songs dedicated to B.R. Ambedkar, documented her daily life as a singer and performer on Instagram Reels.

On May 11, in one of her last posts, she talked about going to a studio later in the day to record a song.

On May 22, the body of Parul, who had been missing for 12 days, was found buried near a highway in Haryana's Rohtak district, two days after two men were arrested by the Delhi Police for allegedly kidnapping and murdering her. According to the police, one of the accused bore a "grudge" against the victim as she had sent him to prison on rape charges.

"Our entire family of eight depended on her. She used to keep telling me that she is doing everything possible to get her brother and sisters married and settled," her father Gopal* said.

Pillar of support

Parul's village lies a few kilometres beyond Najafgarh's last metro station, close to the Delhi-Haryana border.

Farmlands flank the first few kilometres of the village. Beyond the farms lie rows of houses. At the other end of the village lies the modest three-room rented accommodation where Parul lived with her family.

Her brother Varun* remembers his sister as being full of energy.

After her graduation, with a BA in Political Science from Delhi University, Parul took an active interest in politics. She started writing songs and poems on Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

Mr. Varun said that even during her college days, Parul would often sneak out to attend public meetings, and calls for protest issued by the Bhim Army, the grassroots organisation from which Chandra Shekhar Azad formed the Azad Samaj Party.

Mr. Varun recalled, "Parul and I would keep fighting over every little thing. But whenever I or anyone in the family needed anything, she was always there."

Bought a motorbike

As an example, Mr. Varun talks about how he had once asked Parul to buy him a motorcycle. "She did not tell me, but ever since that day, she kept saving money, and one fine day, she bought me a second-hand motorcycle. I never had to ask her for anything twice," Mr. Varun says.

The family now depends on the small salary of ₹8,000 to Rs 9,000 a month that Varun brings home. "We have not even thought about what comes next," Mr. Gopal said, talking about their family's finances.

He has not been able to work ever since he suffered a slipped disc. With Parul gone, the family doesn't know how it will manage to pay the monthly rent of ₹5,000.

"She was paying for my medication. Varun is doing his best but I'm afraid, it will not be enough," Mr. Gopal said.

Helping financially

Bhim Army activists who knew Parul talked about the lengths to which the promising young singer went to help her family financially. Ranvijay*, a Bhim Army activist, said Parul worked as a civil defence volunteer, and sang Haryanvi pop numbers and devotional songs for money.

But what she was clearly proud of was her tribute to Ambedkar.

Her last few YouTube videos show her performing at Ambedkar Jayanti events.

'Police inaction'

"Now the police are saying they have arrested two people for the killing and that

SPECIAL

they are taking legal action. But what is the point now? Will my daughter come back? They could have started taking us seriously from May 14 onwards," Mr. Gopal said.

The Delhi Police have denied the family's allegations.

A senior officer said that the plot to kill her was hatched in Haryana's Meham, adding that she was killed on May 11 itself, outside the jurisdiction of the Delhi Police.

The family said it first approached the police on the night of May 13.

Technically, the case would not have been of Delhi's but the police here registered the case and did everything to find her, the officer said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Shankar Choudhary told *The Hindu*, "In this case, we were extremely proactive. We were not reactive."

*(*Some names have been changed to protect the identity of the victim)*

Elephant won't let go of calf's carcass

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Forest officials and residents of tea gardens at Jalpaiguri in north Bengal have been witnessing a heart-wrenching sight over the past two days as an adult female elephant is carrying around the carcass of her dead calf.

Locals said that the calf died on Friday but the mother has refused to leave it since, and is believed to have carried the carcass for about seven kilometres and brought it into a tea garden.

Anshu Jadav, Divisional Forest Officer, Gorumara Wildlife Division told *The Hindu* that the elephant was now at Red Bank Tea Garden under the Binnaguri Wildlife Squad.

IN BRIEF

Mumbai Police book BJP's Nupur Sharma

PUNE

The Mumbai Police registered an FIR against BJP leader Nupur Sharma for allegedly hurting religious sentiments by making objectionable remarks against Prophet Muhammad during a TV debate. An FIR under IPC Sections 153A (promoting enmity), 295 and 505 was lodged at the Pydhonie police station on a complaint filed by one Irfan Shaikh, joint secretary of the Mumbai wing of the Raza Academy.

Assam to give document to 6 minority communities

GUWAHATI

The Assam government on Sunday has decided to provide certificates to members of six minority communities. Such a move will help the minorities possessing such a certificate get government benefits, Assam Health Minister Keshab Mahanta said after the State Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma took the decision on Sunday. The six communities are Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and Parsis.

Govt. to launch portal to check welfare deliveries

NEW DELHI

The Centre is planning to launch 'Jan Samarth' — a common portal for delivery of various schemes run by different Ministries and departments. As part of the Centre's vision of minimum government, maximum governance, the new portal plans to initially onboard 15 credit-linked government schemes, sources said. The offerings will be gradually expanded as some of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes have involvement of multiple agencies, they added.

Monsoon sets in over Kerala

10 of the 14 monitoring stations recorded 2.5 mm or more of rainfall, says IMD

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The monsoon has reached Kerala, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday. While this is three days before the usual onset date of June 1, it is two days later than what the IMD forecast on May 13.

Rainfall is not the only criterion that the IMD relies on to declare the monsoon's onset. Windspeeds of a minimum strength and depth in the atmosphere, the outgoing longwave radiation, which is a measure of cloudiness, and rainfall appearing to be consistent and well distributed over Kerala, are important criteria.

Until Saturday, most of these parameters – except sufficient rainfall over Kerala – were fulfilled.

Season starts: Workers using coir to build the roof of a tourist boat at Marine Drive in Kochi on Sunday. • THULASI KAKKAT

"There has been widespread rainfall activity over Kerala during the past 24 hours and out of the 14 rainfall monitoring stations for declaring onset of the monsoon over Kerala, 10 have received rainfall of 2.5 mm or more. Thus, all the conditions for onset of monsoon over Kerala have been satisfied today, the 29th May 2022," said a statement from the IMD.

In the days ahead, the southwest monsoon is expected to advance to "...remaining parts of Kerala, some more parts of Tamil Nadu, some parts of Karnataka, and some more parts of south and Central Bay of Bengal, some parts of northeast Bay of Bengal and northeastern States during next 3-4 days," it added.

Rainfall delayed

Last year too, the monsoon had been forecast to arrive by May 31 but officially landed on June 3 after which the progress was slow.

The IMD used a specialised weather model to forecast the monsoon onset over Kerala and the forecast date had a built-in four-day margin of error.

Except for 2015, the monsoon had arrived within the four-day window of the date forecast by the IMD from 2005 to 2021, the department said.

The IMD has forecast the June-September monsoon to be normal with rainfall likely to be 99% of the historical normal.

U.S. becomes India's biggest trading partner at $119 billion

India's commerce with China stands at $115 bn in 2021-22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The U.S. surpassed China to become India's top trading partner in 2021-22, reflecting strengthening economic ties between the two countries.

According to data with the Commerce Ministry, the bilateral trade between the U.S. and India stood at $119.42 billion in 2021-22 as against $80.51 billion in 2020-21. Exports to the U.S. increased to $76.11 billion in 2021-22 from $51.62 billion in the previous fiscal year, while imports rose to $43.31 billion from about $29 billion.

During 2021-22, India's two-way commerce with China aggregated at $115.42 billion as compared to $86.4 billion in 2020-21, the data showed. Exports to China marginally increased to $21.25 billion last fiscal year from $21.18 billion in 2020-21, while imports jumped to $94.16 billion from about $65.21 billion in 2020-21. Trade gap rose to $72.91 billion in 2021-22 from $44 billion in the previous fiscal year.

Trade experts believe that the trend of increasing bilateral trade with the U.S. will continue in the coming years also as New Delhi and Washington are engaged in strengthening economic ties. Federation of Indian Export Organisations vice-president Khalid Khan said India is emerging as a trusted trading partner and global firms are reducing their dependence on China for their supplies and are diversifying business into other countries like India.

"India has joined a U.S.-led initiative to set up an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and this move would help boost economic ties further," Mr. Khan said.

Rakesh Mohan Joshi, Director of the Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bangalore, too said that India is the fastest growing market economy with unparalleled demographic dividend and provides enormous opportunities for the U.S. and Indian firms for technology transfer, manufacturing, trade and investment.

Still in deep waters, seafarers wait for COVID curbs to lift

They face problems in getting 'on shore' and 'short hand' leaves because of restrictions imposed to contain the virus

A. M. JIGEESH
NEW DELHI

Gopal Krishna is a petty officer in the engine department of an Indian ship. His mother is unwell, but he is unable to reach his home in Visakhapatnam from the Cochin Port, where his vessel is anchored now. "My captain gave me necessary clearance for a 'short hand' leave of 10 days. But I didn't get the necessary clearance from the government authorities. My mother is unwell, I have to reach my house," Mr. Krishna said.

The authorities denied him permission on the ground of COVID-19 restrictions on entry of seafarers,

In trouble: They complain that the immigration and the port security officials do not allow them "on shore leave". • AP

which is yet to be officially lifted by the Union Home Ministry.

Mr. Krishna's case is not an isolated one. Nearly 10,000 seafarers, of national and foreign carriers, who reach Indian ports almost every day, face problems in availing themselves of "on shore" and "short hand" leaves that they are entitled to. The Centre and the States withdrew almost all restrictions on movement imposed during the pandemic, but seafarers are one group of workers who are yet to get the benefit of these relaxations. They complain that without proper advisories, they do not get immigration and port security clearance for "on shore" leave, which is their right under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006. An "on shore" leave is usually given for four to six hours, while a "short hand" leave is for 10 to 15 days.

As a result, seafarers who return to shore after three to 45 days of sailing have to remain on the ship and are not allowed to go "on shore" for their personal well-being. India has about 2.5 lakh seafarers.

They complain that the immigration and the port security officials do not allow them "shore leave" even at those ports where some relaxations have already been announced by the respective State governments. The unions of seafarers have approached Union Home Minister Amit Shah for relaxation in the norms.

The Forward Seamen's Union of India has represented this problem of Indian and foreign sailors to the Home Ministry. Its general secretary, Manoj Yadav, said in a complaint to Mr. Shah that seafarers are facing mental stress due to want of their repatriation and "shore leave".

Mr. Yadav met the Directorate General Shipping requesting that the issue be resolved.

The union urged Mr. Shah not to deny the fundamental rights of a seafarer.

"In all other countries, seafarers are getting 'on shore' leave, of course, with some restrictions. In China, only Indian seafarers face a similar problem. But the government hasn't helped us to resolve this despite raising this with the authorities," Mr. Yadav said.

PM to release aid for COVID orphans today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release benefits under the PM Cares for children scheme for over 4,000 COVID-19 orphans through video conference on Monday.

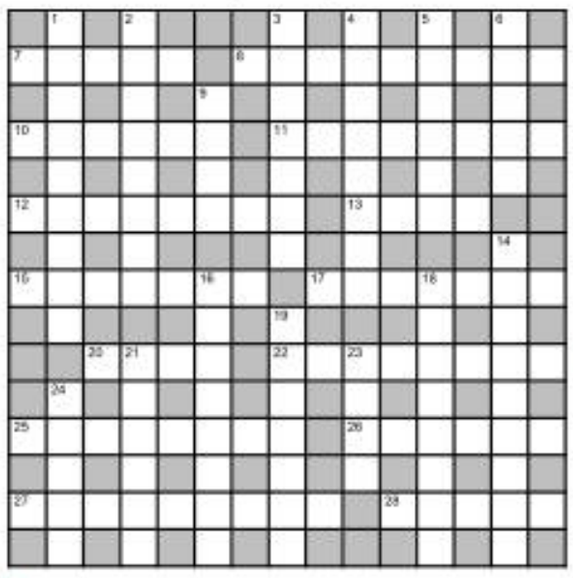
At a ceremony to be conducted across all districts, children will receive school scholarships, health cards under the government's health insurance scheme called Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana as well as a passbook for the ₹10 lakh promised to all beneficiaries once they turn 23 years old. The beneficiaries identified so far stand at 4,345.

THE CROSSWORD + 13569

(set by WrdPlougher)

Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCANTO PLAY



ACROSS

7 Blowing top, criticises old cars (5)
8 PA system's first electronic call conveying right flight information (9)
10 Having at first deviously confused you, earlier clue's first half is unclear (6)
11 Speak with caddy regularly to find groove back in time for third round at Augusta, say? (8)
12 Statesman Gore shifty about very fundamentally wrong backtracking (8)
13 Flower flowed (4)
15 Rises and falls like echoes in between non-regular stereo woofers – hollow (7)
17 Covering event briefly, working in a newspaper company (7)
20 Excavators starting to assess large piece of land (4)
22 At the Centre, stingy decision-makers providing cuts (8)
25 Large unlimited menu cooked finally, just in case (8)
26 Hid dame's rocks with luck in the end (6)
27 Fought again to overcome key enemy, besieged by two sides, altogether crushed by leaderless squad (9)
28 Date of Xi's return? (5)

DOWN

1 Beast of burden bolstered by rest near river, building heavy machinery (9)
2 Judge exhausted, unwilling to meet returning expats (8)
3 Locked up cobbler (7)
4 Measures time taken by muezzin and imam usually (8)
5 Data-gathering seminar finally begins (6)
6 Experimental process undertaken in the dock? (5)
9 Carol heard a man (4)
14 Absorbs companies (9)
16 Detached about king, she finally lost power (8)
18 Dish shattered in pointless bitter struggle (8)
19 Releasing Spring, Bruce to tour the heart of Texas with one sweet little number? (7)
21 19's mathematical relationship with 4? (6)
23 Bound to be lively (4)
24 Grumpy lady's audition skipping ending of play (5)

SUDOKU

4		2		3		8	7	1
	1				4		3	5
						2		
					5		2	4
			7		6			
1	2		8					
		1						
5	7		3				1	
2	9	3		5		6		7

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13568

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	7	4	2	5	1	8	6	9
1	6	8	9	4	7	2	3	5
2	9	5	3	6	8	1	4	7
5	2	6	7	1	9	3	8	4
4	3	9	6	8	5	7	1	2
7	8	1	4	3	2	5	9	6
6	4	2	8	7	3	9	5	1
8	5	7	1	9	4	6	2	3
9	1	3	5	2	6	4	7	8

FAITH

Greatness of Sita

The Vishnu Purana states that whenever the Lord incarnates, the Divine Mother also accompanies by taking a suitable form to enable Him fulfill the purpose of His avatar. So, when Rama takes a human form she is born as Sita and stands by Him in all His endeavours.

In a discourse, Sri A.K. Sundarrajan drew attention to the interpretations of the acharyas in our tradition who are overwhelmed by her exceptional qualities, especially her boundless compassion towards all jivatmas without exception. It is a fact that but for her recommendations to the Lord, the jivatmas who are by nature susceptible to innumerable faults can never be redeemed. Though she undergoes untold sufferings at the hands of the rakshasis in Asoka Vana, she is merciful and kind to them. She spontaneously grants total protection to them and allays their fears when they hear about Trijata's dream that anticipates the fall of Ravana and Rama's victory. After the fall of Ravana, Hanuman asks Sita for permission to kill the rakshasis who had tormented her ruthlessly during her captivity. She calmly dissuades Hanuman from such an act by explaining that after all they only did their duty and obeyed their master Ravana. She thus protects the rakshasis as promised.

Her subservience to Rama at all times is striking. She complies with Rama when He sends her to the forest to allay public criticism though she is pregnant. She says she wishes to stay with the rishis since they are pure in heart. Rama orders Lakshmana to leave Sita in Valmiki's ashram. Finally, in accordance with Rama's wishes to prove her chastity to all, she invokes Mother Earth who takes her into her fold in the most astonishing manner in the presence of the people of Ayodhya giving no room for any doubt.

Russia storms key city in eastern Ukraine

Heavy fighting in Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk; President Zelensky makes frontline visit to Kharkiv

ASSOCIATED PRESS
POKROVSK

Russian and Ukrainian troops engaged in close-quarter combat in an eastern Ukraine city on Sunday as Moscow's soldiers, supported by intense shelling, attempted to gain strategic footholds for conquering the region in the face of fierce Ukrainian resistance.

Ukrainian regional officials reported Russian forces "storming" Sievierodonetsk after trying unsuccessfully to encircle the city. The fighting knocked out power and mobile phone service, and a humanitarian relief centre could not operate because of the danger, the Mayor said.

Sievierodonetsk, located about 143 kilometres south of the Russian border, has emerged in recent days as the epicentre of Moscow's quest to capture all of Ukraine's industrial Donbas region. Russia also stepped up its efforts to take nearby Lysychansk, where civilians rushed to escape persistent shelling.

Morale booster: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, left, talking with servicemen in Kharkiv. • AFP

The two eastern cities span the strategically-important Siverskiy Donetsk river. They are the last major areas under Ukrainian control in Luhansk province, which makes up the Donbas together with neighbouring Donetsk.

'Boundless pride'

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky made a rare frontline visit to the city of Kharkiv as he sought to assert the strength of Ukraine's position there. Ukrainian fighters pushed Russian forces back from positions near the city, Ukraine's second-largest, several weeks ago.

"I feel boundless pride in our defenders. Every day, risking their lives, they fight for Ukraine's freedom," Mr. Zelensky wrote on the Telegram messaging app after visiting soldiers stationed in Kharkiv.

Russia has kept up its bombardment of the north-eastern city from afar, and explosions could be heard in the area shortly after Mr. Zelensky's visit. Shelling and airstrikes have destroyed more than 2,000 apartment buildings since Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, according to the regional Governor, Oleh Synieh ubov.

In the wider Kharkiv region, Russian troops still held about 30% of the territory, while Kyiv's troops had recaptured another 5%, the Governor said. However, Mr. Zelensky acknowledged that the battle for the east is "indescribably difficult". The "Russian Army is trying to squeeze at least some result" by concentrating its attacks there, he said in a Saturday night video address.

Russia is focused, after failing to seize Ukraine's capital, on occupying parts of Donbas not already controlled by pro-Moscow separatists. Russian forces made small advances in recent days as bombardments chewed away at Ukrainian positions and kept civilians trapped in basements or desperately trying to get out safely. Attacks to destroy military targets throughout the country also caused casualties in civilian areas.

Civilians who reached the eastern city of Pokrovsk, about 130 kilometres south of Lysychansk, said they held out as long as they could before fleeing the Russian advance.

Sri Lanka police tear-gas students in fresh clashes

PM offers protesters greater say in country's administration

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

The police fired tear gas to disperse thousands of students trying to storm the Sri Lankan President's home on Sunday as the government offered an olive branch to demonstrators demanding his resignation.

Anti-riot squads used water cannon followed by tear gas, as protesters pulled down yellow iron barricades across a road leading to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's official residence in Colombo.

Nearby, thousands of men and women demonstrated for the 51st straight day outside Mr. Rajapaksa's seafront office on Sunday, demanding that he step down over the country's worst economic crisis since Independence.

Volatile situation: The police using tear gas to disperse students in Colombo on Sunday. • AFP

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe went on national television on Sunday evening offering young protesters a greater say in how the country is administered.

"The youth are calling for a change in the existing system," Mr. Wickremesinghe said, laying out plans for 15 committees that would work with Parliament to decide national policies.

"I propose to appoint four youth representatives to each of the 15 committees," he said, adding that they could be drawn from the current protesters.

IMF, Pak. likely to reach pact in June: Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan is expected to reach an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in June to resurrect an enhanced bailout package to support the cash-strapped country's sagging economy, Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said.

Pakistan has repeatedly been seeking international aid to support its failing economy.

The talks with the IMF are being held in the Qatari capital Doha.

He said that the country is projected to need $36 billion to $37 billion in foreign financing in the next fiscal.

March by Israeli nationalists sparks tension in Jerusalem

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM

Thousands of Israeli nationalists, some of them chanting "Death to Arabs," paraded through the heart of the main Palestinian thoroughfare in Jerusalem's Old City on Sunday, in a show of force that risked setting off a new wave of violence in the tense city.

The crowds, who were overwhelmingly young Orthodox Jewish men, were celebrating Jerusalem Day – an Israeli holiday that marks the capture of the Old City in the 1967 war. Palestinians see the event, which passes through the heart of the Muslim Quarter, as a provocation. Last year, the parade helped trigger an 11-day war with Gaza militants, and this year's march drew condemnations from the Palestinians and Jordan.

Israel said it deployed thousands of security forces for the event, and violent scuffles between Jewish and Palestinian groups erupted inside the Old City before the parade began.

Ahead of the march, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said that "flying the flag of Israel in the capital of Israel is an obvious thing" and that Israel had made this clear "from the outset." At the same time, he asked participants to celebrate in a "responsible and respectful manner."

Left eyes historic presidential win as Colombians vote for 'change'

Many are pinning their hopes on ex-Mayor Gustavo Petro

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BOGOTA

Colombians headed to the polls on Sunday in a first round of presidential elections with a leftist poised for victory for the first time ever, as voters clamour for "change".

Polls opened amid a tense atmosphere, a year after a brutal security crackdown on street protests fueled by deepening socio-economic woes. Opinion polls show that many Colombians are pinning their hopes on Gustavo Petro, an ex-guerrilla and former Mayor of Bogota,

Gustavo Petro showing his ballot in Bogota. • AFP

to address poverty, rural violence, urban crime and corruption in a country historically governed by the right.

About 39 million of Colombia's 50 million people are eligible to cast their ballot, though the recent abstention rate has been high, at around 50%.

Mr. Petro, 62, is hoping to avoid a June 19 run-off against 47-year-old Federico Gutierrez, a former Mayor of second city Medellin who represents an alliance of right-wing parties. To do so, he would need to garner more than 50% of first-round votes cast.

Ivan Duque, who beat Mr. Petro in a run-off election in 2018, leaves office with record disapproval numbers. Colombian Presidents serve only one four-year term.

Afghan women demand education and work

They hold protest rally in capital Kabul

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

About two dozen Afghan women chanting "bread, work, freedom" protested in the capital on Sunday against the Taliban's harsh restrictions on their rights.

Since seizing power in August, the Taliban have rolled back the marginal gains made by women during the two decades of U.S. intervention in Afghanistan.

"Education is my right! Reopen schools!" chanted the protesters, many of them wearing face-covering veils, as they gathered in front of the Ministry of Education.

Demonstrators marched for a few hundred metres before ending the rally as authorities deployed Taliban fighters in plain clothes.

"We wanted to read out a declaration but the Taliban didn't allow it," said protester Zholia Parsi. "They took the mobile phones of some girls and also prevented us from taking photos or videos of our protest."

After seizing power, the Taliban had promised a softer version of the harsh Islamist rule that characterised their first stint in power from 1996 to 2001.

But many restrictions have already been imposed.

Britain may being back imperial measurements

Move to mark Queen's Platinum Jubilee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is set to announce a return to imperial measurements of pounds and ounces as a post-Brexit move away from the European metric system to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next week, according to media reports.

"As the British people have been happy to use both imperial and metric measurements in their daily life it is good for the government to reflect that now we are free to change our regulations accordingly," *The Mirror* newspaper quoted a Cabinet source as saying.

At present, shopkeepers are legally obliged to use metric measurements such as kilograms and litres when selling packaged or loose goods in England, Scotland and Wales. While it is still legal to price goods in pounds and ounces, these have to be displayed alongside the price in metric units.

Boris Johnson

Under the post-Brexit move, metric units are not expected to be scrapped entirely, but shopkeepers are expected to be free to choose which they use.

2 from India among 21 new cardinals named by Pope

Francis puts stamp on Church's future

REUTERS
VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis announced on Sunday that he would appoint 21 new cardinals in August, including two from India, again putting his stamp on the future of Catholicism.

The two cardinals to be appointed from India are the Archbishop of Goa and Daman, Filipe Neri Antônio Sebastião di Rosário Ferrão, and the Archbishop of Hyderabad, Anthony Poola.

Of the 21, 16 are cardinal electors younger than 80 and thus eligible to enter a conclave to elect his successor. After the August 27 ceremony to officially install them, known as a consistory, Pope Francis will have appointed about 83 of the some 133 electors, increasing the possibility his successor will be a man reflecting his position on key issues.

The new electors include Archbishop Giorgio Marengo, an Italian who is currently the Catholic Church's administrator in Mongolia. The country borders with China, where the Vatican is trying to improve the situation for Catholics. The other cardinal electors come from France, Nigeria, Brazil, India, the United States, East Timor, Italy, Ghana, Singapore, and Paraguay.

Once again, Pope Francis passed over archbishops of major cities, preferring to appoint men in far-flung places where the Church is small or growing.

Triangle of Sadness wins Palme d'Or

Satire by Swedish director takes top award at Cannes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
CANNES

A viciously sharp satire about class conflict, with an already-infamous vomiting and pooping scene, won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival on Saturday, the second time Swedish director Ruben Ostlund has won the prize.

Triangle of Sadness puts Ostlund among a select group of two-time winners of the top prize at Cannes. He first scooped the Palme in 2017 for *The Square*.

Now firmly established as cinema's king of cringe, Ostlund, 48, takes a scalpel to bourgeois niceties. This time he turned his gaze on fashion models and the ultra-rich, who find their status suddenly undermined when disaster strikes a cruise ship.

Accepting the award, Ostlund said he wanted audiences "to ask themselves questions, to go out after the screening and have something to talk about".

Great show: Swedish director Ruben Ostlund celebrating after winning his second Palme d'Or on Saturday. • REUTERS

The most moving part of the ceremony was the best actress award that went to Iranian Zar Amir Ebrahimi, forced to flee her country 16 years ago following a smear campaign over her love life.

She played a journalist in *Holy Spider*, tracking a man who murders prostitutes in the holy city of Mashhad.

"I have come a long way to be on this stage tonight," said Ebrahimi, who now lives in Paris.

"This film is about women, it's about their bodies, it's a movie full of faces, hair, hands, feet, breasts, sex – everything that is impossible to show in Iran," she added.

The best director award went to South Korea's Park Chan-wook for *Decision to Leave*, about a detective falling for his murder suspect.

The best actor award went to Song Kang-ho – famous as the father in the Oscar-winning *Parasite* – for his performance in the touching adoption drama *Broker* by Japan's Hirokazu Kore-eda.

The runner-up Grand Prix was split between 32-year-old Belgian Lukas Dhont and French veteran Claire Denis.

Dhont's *Close* is a tender portrait of two boys facing bullying as they grapple with their budding sexuality, while Denis won for *Stars at Noon*, a love story set against political tensions in Central America.

The third-place Jury Prize was shared between *The Eight Mountains*, about a lifelong friendship in the Italian Alps; and the festival's most radical entry, *EO*, a movie told entirely from the point of view of a donkey, from 84-year-old Polish legend Jerzy Skolimowski.

BusinessLine
THE HINDU GROUP

If you are a changemaker or know of one, nominate them today.

The Hindu BusinessLine Changemaker Awards has been recognising and honouring individuals who have made a positive change to the society we live in. For this year's awards, nominate such architects of change as a tribute to their grit. Let us cheer them on and thereby encourage several more to follow their path.

BusinessLine CHANGE MAKER awards

Our past winners:

Dutee Chand
Changemaker of the year - 2020

Government E Marketplace
Changemaker - Digital Transformation - 2020

India Stack
Changemaker - Financial Transformation - 2020

Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences
Changemaker - Social Transformation - 2019

Anju Verma
Young Changemaker - 2019

Dr (Mrs) Rani Bang and Dr Abhay Bang
Iconic Changemaker - 2018

CATEGORIES
Young Changemaker | Changemaker of the Year
Iconic Changemaker | Digital Transformation
Social Transformation | Financial Transformation

2 more days to go

Send in your nominations on or before 31st May 2022.

To nominate, log in to www.blchangemakers.com or scan the QR code. To know more, mail us at blchangemakers@thehindu.co.in

Knowledge Partners: Deloitte.
Validation Partner

ASK US

BHAVANA ACHARYA

Q. I am a 75-year-old retired bank officer. Please advise whether I should continue with investments in mutual funds or to redirect the same to other avenues?

SREENIVASAN VISWANATHAN

A. Mutual funds are of different types. Without knowing your funds, we cannot give an opinion on its performance. Additionally, factors such as what your need is, how much risk you can take, how much these fund investments account for in your overall investments also matter.

Generally speaking, if the funds you have are equity-based (especially high-risk ones such as mid-caps or small-caps) and this allocation is high in your overall investments, it's better to review them and see if they suit your purpose. This is especially true if you need to set up an income stream from these funds. If you hold debt-based funds, check if returns are above-average, that there are no hidden risks in terms of the credit quality of the portfolio and your time frame is adequate to match those funds. If so, you can continue to hold them and set up systematic withdrawal from these when you need income.

Q. I am 30. My monthly income is ₹80,000. What are my investment options if I have ₹30,000 left in savings?

VINODINI SIVASAMY

A. First, you need to set up an emergency portfolio equal to about 6-8 months of monthly expenses. Hold this in your savings account and FDs that can be easily liquidated. You may already be investing in EPF – this will go towards retirement savings. You can also mull some investments in NPS for your retirement corpus – allocate more to the Corporate Debt and Government Debt options, here. It will also offer tax breaks. However, note that NPS is a very long-term investment and locks you in until age 60.

Otherwise, mutual funds and ETFs are the most suitable products to build wealth as they are versatile, well regulated, transparent and liquid. Use a mix of equity funds and debt funds, which will help diversify your portfolio and balance the risk.

Decide the allocation between equity and debt based on your risk and the time frame – higher the risk appetite or longer the time frame, the more the equity allocation. Make sure to have large-cap index funds and other large-cap based funds for the core of your portfolio. Add other aggressive funds such as multi-caps, mid-caps and small-cap funds on this. For debt funds, go by your time frame and pick funds whose average maturity is at least equal to yours. For the amount you plan to invest, 4-5 funds should do. If you do not have the time or understanding to identify quality funds, simply use index funds.

Q. I am 72, single and retired. In 2016, my father had invested ₹13 lakh in Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs). He passed away in 2018, and the bonds have since been transferred in my name. The lock-in period has ended and I can redeem the bonds. As the interest offered is very low, I've decided to sell the bonds. Where should I invest the proceeds?

S. SRINATH RAJAN SRINATH

A. A bit of explanation on Sovereign Gold Bonds, first. SGBs are linked to gold prices – the issue price is calculated using the average gold prices of the last 3 business days of the week before the issue opens. The price at which the bonds are redeemed is based on the average closing prices of the 3 days prior to redemption. If gold prices are up at the time of redemption compared with the prices at issue, you make capital gains. Therefore, SGBs are meant to be a way to invest in gold and not to earn interest income. The interest is, in fact, an additional return as other gold products such as gold mutual funds and ETFs do not have an interest component.

If you redeem the bonds, you can consider the RBI Floating Rate Taxable Bonds. Since government bond yields are attractive at this time, you can also invest in G-secs and lock into good long-term yields (use the RBI Retail Direct platform to invest in them).

Fixed deposits of small finance banks, which offer attractive rates, are another option. But given that interest rates are beginning to move up, wait for banks to revise rates or invest in very short-maturity FDs and renew later at higher rates. If you're investing in such FDs, spread them across 2-3 banks to maximise the deposit insurance guarantee. However, if you do not require interest income and can take some risk, there are other options. If you understand mutual funds, then you can invest in low-risk, short-maturity debt mutual funds as well. Be careful when choosing these funds – if you're in doubt, it's best to avoid them.

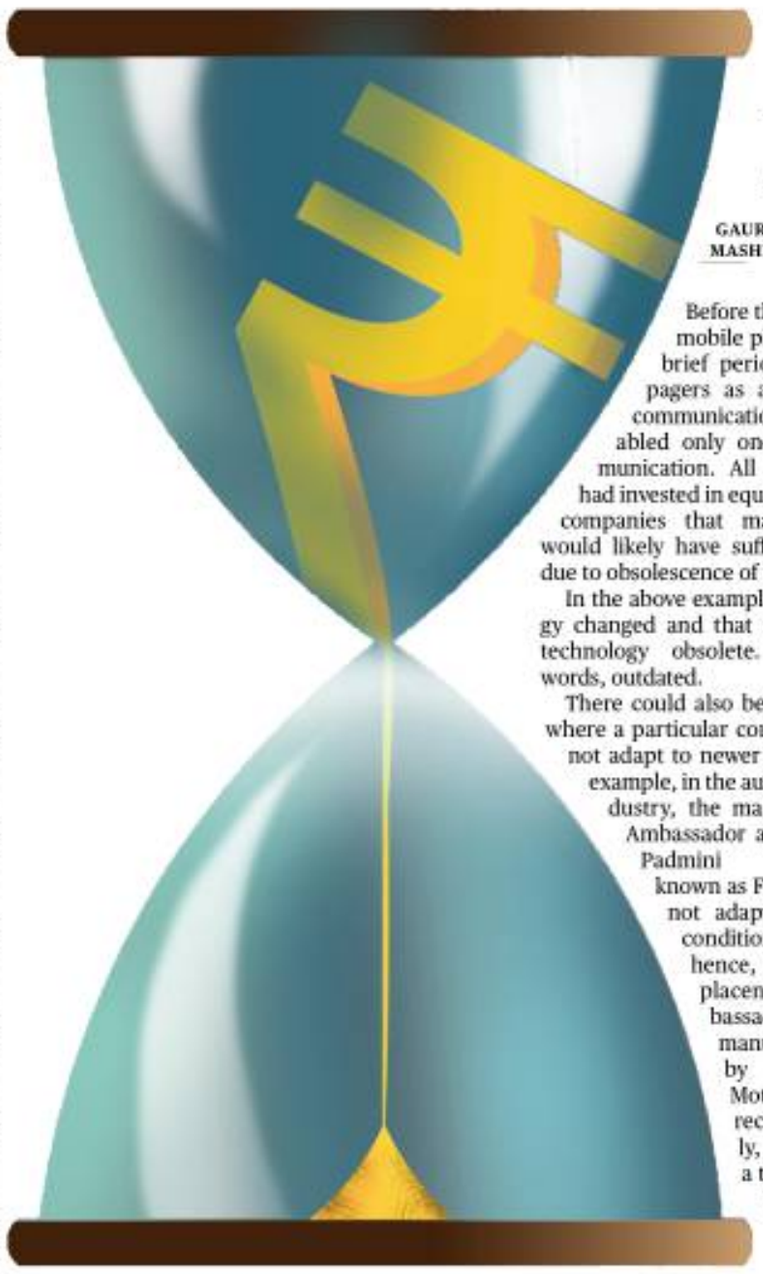
Q. I am a final year college student and have been placed at an MNC. Before starting my job, I want to gain knowledge on investing and personal finance. What courses and books would you advise me to go through?

YASH KHANDELWAL

A. You can check *The Psychology of Money* by Morgan Housel for a general understanding on financial decision-making, thinking about money, savings and spending. For a focus on the Indian investment world, Monika Halan's *Let's Talk Money* is a good option. This apart, you can look up various online platforms that explain basic investment concepts. Invest only in products that you understand and where you know the nature of risk you will be taking. Do not get influenced by returns alone or taxation alone. Diversify into different products to tap the widest range of opportunities.

(The financial adviser is Co-founder, PrimeInvestor.in)

Readers can e-mail queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. The experts on personal finance will answer select queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.



Risk of obsolescence

Emotional attachment to scrips can lead to sudden loss

GAURAV MASHRUWALA

Before the advent of mobile phones, for a brief period, we had pagers as a means of communication. They enabled only one-way communication. All those who had invested in equity shares of companies that made pagers would likely have suffered losses due to obsolescence of technology.

In the above example, technology changed and that made older technology obsolete. In other words, outdated.

There could also be a situation where a particular company does not adapt to newer trends. For example, in the automobile industry, the makers of the Ambassador and Premier Padmini (popularly known as Fiat) cars did not adapt to newer conditions and hence, were complacent. The Ambassador car was manufactured by Hindustan Motors Ltd. If I recall correctly, once upon a time it was a blue-chip scrip and part of the Sensex. Today, I doubt if the company is on any investor's list of top stocks to watch.

Redefining business ways

There is also the example of watches made by Titan Company Ltd. When they were introduced, HMT watches completely controlled the market. However, Titan redefined ways of doing business. Some time ago, there was a business news item that said HMT Ltd. had stopped manufacturing watches.

An example of a manufacturer of metal tubes also comes to mind. All of us in our 40s and older recall that our toothpastes, medicines, etc., used to be packed in metal tubes until laminated tubes became an alternative. I don't think there are any toothpastes available in metal tubes today. Companies that were manufacturing those metal tubes got outdated and unless they adapted to newer materials, they are probably out of business.

During the lockdown, cloud kitchens and food delivery companies gained momentum. Similarly, various online aggregators have also gained. Online shopping gave a thrust to digital payments.

They say, "The only constant in life is change". This applies to products and industries also.

As an investor, it is of immense importance that you keep yourself abreast of developments in the industry of firms in which you have invested via equity. Even if your investment is in bonds/debentures of a company, it is important to keep an eye on that firm and the trends in its industry. For, if the company becomes obsolete for any reason, it would struggle to honour its commitment to bond and debenture holders also. A company that is a winner today need not stay a winner tomorrow.

Do not get over-exposed to any single scrip or industry. Always diversify across industries and companies

Anchoring effect

It is important that we do not get attached to our investments. This is cognitive bias. Our mind gets anchored to the original thought process and to decisions taken earlier. We then get emotionally attached to our decisions. This is one of the major biases in behavioural finance. Most times, we get carried away if our investment is in a company/industry that is the market leader or enjoys a very large market share. This is because due to its overall position in the marketplace, it could be generating supernatural growth. It may also get classified as a blue-chip scrip. At this juncture, follow the basic principles of investing. Do not be overexposed to any single scrip or industry. Always diversify across industries and companies.

Emotional attachment

Many of my clients get emotionally attached to their investment. "Gaurav, I would not like to sell shares of [XYZ Ltd]. My father had gifted them to me and they are his blessings. Today, I have immense wealth due to his blessing," said a client.

As a professional, this is a situation I see fairly frequently. At that point, I use my standard argument, "we are not liquidating the investment, we are simply changing according to the current situation. This will ensure your father's blessings not only remain with you but keep growing."

Mutual funds, as investment vehicles, are better equipped to deal with this kind of risk. While a prudent investor in equity may be able to gauge such risk, s/he may not be able to create a well-diversified portfolio due to the lower availability of funds compared with an institution that has access to a significant quantum. Many a time, retail investors also get emotionally attached to one scrip, leading to sudden loss arising out of obsolescence. Emotional attachment, for example, to the Hindustan Motors stock because of the product it made, could have spelt financial trouble for a retail investor.

(The writer is financial planner and author of Yogic Wealth)

COVER NOTE: REVERSE MORTGAGE

Unlock your asset

Funding a post-retirement life can be quite easy and a retiree can spend time in the comfort of his/her own home

K. NITYA KALYANI

What you save and invest through your earning life has to also fund your post-retirement years, which stretch nearly as long as the former these days.

You need a bouquet of investments to see you through and one way is to unlock investments you have already made.

First things first, you could be drawing a pension from your employer, have provident fund proceeds, National Pension Scheme or annuity policies. Of course, you could be having a post-retirement job or consulting income and your investments will be fetching you returns.

You would most certainly own your own home and that presents you with one more way to add to your income at this stage.

A reverse mortgage is simply a loan against your home under specific circumstances. The basic requirement for this is you should be over 60, you should own and live in the home you are going to mortgage. The bank will create a mortgage on the property and give you a loan against it. You can take it in a lumpsum or at monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annual instalments.

You get to stay in the same home and don't have to vacate. You don't have to pay interest or even pay back the principal amount. When you pass away, your nominee/ legal heirs will get what is left of the value of the home after the bank collects its principal and interest.

Reverse mortgage as a product has been available for over a decade-and-a-half but has not caught up much. There are a few touted reasons. Indians love to will their homes to their progeny so this option did not sit well culturally - well that is changing in significant pockets.

The mortgage value is only a part of the property value and the tenure is only a maximum of 20 years and what about the income after that and what about settling the loan?

Social trend

We are going through a social trend where a certain category of investors can see this as a welcome flexibility.

Let us say your home is worth ₹1.5 crore. Banks will lend you a certain percentage of this value depending on various factors, especially the market price and perceived future appreciation of the property. Let us say, they offer you ₹1 crore. The interest rate on this is typically 1.5 to 2% higher than for a typical home loan.

Loan tenure

Another downside is that loan tenures are at best for 20 years. At that point you have to repay the loan or allow the bank to recover your loan by selling the property.

Should you die before the tenure of the loan, the outstanding will be the liability of your legal heirs, and the residual value of the property, their asset. Since you don't repay principal or pay interest the dues to the bank at that point would have ballooned quite a bit.

Today's home loan rates are 6 to 7% and a leading bank offers reverse mortgage at a little over 9%. Nine per cent simple interest on ₹1 crore over 20 years would make the total outstanding closer to ₹3 crore. If you apply compound interest, the outstanding would hit ₹3 crore as early as in the 13th year and be almost ₹6 crore by year 20. (I have calculated the interest as if the loan was given as one lumpsum and not over the 20-year period just for easy calculation.)

You have to adjust this for two factors. One, the market value of the property could have appreciated in the 20 years and the repayment to the bank may still leave you with residual value. Whether a property of ₹1.5 crore today will fetch you ₹6 crore and then some in 20 years is a view you have to take.

Of course, we have seen it happening, but the real-estate markets have stagnated too, the pandemic being the most recent trigger.

The second is that the payments you receive are loans and are not taxable. Add the non-financial advantages that you get to stay in your home for your lifetime even if the loan tenure is over and don't pay rent because, well, it's your property.

Twilight option: Reverse mortgage can be a means of monetising a retiree's home • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

The reverse mortgage offers this coverage up to the death of your spouse as well.

Annuity option

A variation of this is the reverse mortgage linked to an annuity policy.

Annuities are periodical payouts from a pension policy purchased from a life insurance company. It is an insurance, a financial hedge against the risk of living too long.

Annuity incomes, as you know, are taxable as income. However, there is a specific exception for annuities that are part of a reverse mortgage and they are not taxable since 2013. So, this puts the annuity option on par with the loan option in a reverse mortgage.

In the annuity option, the lumpsum loan, ₹1 crore in the example above, is given to the life insurance company to purchase an immediate annuity. Annuities have many options ranging from annuity for whole life to specified tenures and the purchase price you pay for them varies accordingly.

This flexibility with the tenure of the payments you will receive gives the annuity option a few extra points.

Both the limited quantum of the reverse mortgage and the limited tenure can be seen as negative points. But they can be seen as positive as well. If you look at it as an option that unlocks your property value for the first 10 to 20 years of your retired life, consolidating your assets after that including selling off real estate holdings and moving to a retirement community, these two factors actually give you the flexibility for that. The high interest rate is also a negative, but if you are planning to use this as a stopgap as you wait to liquidate other real estate holdings at your own pace, it could work.

You could pay off the mortgage, liquidate your property and distribute the proceeds to your near and dear in your lifetime. Or, let them pay the mortgage or work with the bank to liquidate the property and claim the residual value.

A recent WhatsApp conversation centred around a trend where a growing category of wealthy middle-class senior citizens are finding their progeny, being highly successful in their careers and geographically dispersed and mobile, want neither to inherit landed property back home nor the bother of liquidating them after their parents' lifetime. If you belong to this category of people, consider a reverse mortgage as a means of monetising your home. At the end of your lifetime you will even have the services of the financial institution which will sell the property, adjust its receivables and give the residual value to your nominee/ legal heir!

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Life insurance term plan premium

Male: 30 Years, Sum Insured - ₹1 crore, Cover up to - 70 Years

Insurance company	Plan name	Maximum cover up to (Years)	Annual premium ₹
LIC OF INDIA	Tech Term^	80	14,122
Aditya Birla Capital	Life Shield Plan	85	12,998
Aegon Life	iTerm Insurance Plan	100	9,114
Bajaj Allianz	Smart Protect Goal	85	10,911
Bharti AXA	Premier Protect Plan	75	11,092**
Canara HSBC OBC Life	iSelect Star Term Plan	99	11,605
HDFC Life	Click2Protect Plus	85	12,601
ICICI Prudential	iProtect Smart	99	15628
India First Life	e-Term Plan	80	8,260
Kotak Life Insurance	Kotak e-Term Plan	75	9,558
Max Life Insurance	Smart Term Plan	85	11,800***
PNB Met Life	Mera Term Plan Plus	99	12,272
Reliance Nippon Life	Digi Term	80	11,012
SBI Life	eShield	80	15,070
TATA AIA Life	Maha Raksha Supreme	100	12,980

^Maximum policy term is 40 years | **Bharti AXA coverage up to 65 years for age 30 years
***Max Life offers additional 5% discount for first year

Health insurance premium

Insurer name	Key features	Plan names	Premium (₹)
Care Health	Day Care Treatments Family Floater option Health Checkups No claim bonus Restoration of cover Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage	NCB Super Premium Care Care with unlimited recharge Care plus Care Heart NCB Super Premium with UAR	10,069 9,153 9,840 11,755 14,195 10,755
Niva Bupa Health	Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home Family Floater option Alternate Medicine	Health ReAssure Health Pulse Enhanced Health Companion Go Active	9,590 10,161 9,862 11,747
Star Health	Family Floater option Restoration of cover Wellness Benefits Existing illness cover Free health checkup	Medi Classic Star Comprehensive Young Star Gold Plan Diabetes Safe Plan-B Young Star Silver Plan	9,661 11,476 8,389 19,122 7,133
Aditya Birla Health	Cashless hospitals Day Care Treatments Day 1 coverage Day 1 coverage Day 1 coverage Day 1 coverage Day 1 coverage Day 1 coverage	Activ assure Diamond Activ Health Platinum Enhanced Activ Health Enhance (Diabetes) Activ Health Enhance (Asthma) Activ Health Enhance (Hypertonsion) Activ Health Platinum Essential Activ Health Essential (Diabetes) Activ Health Enhance (Asthma) Activ Health Enhance (Hypertension)	7,919 9,074 17,912 13,170 19,889 7,474 15,072 11,240 16,587
Kotak General	No claim bonus Restoration of cover	Kotak Health Premium- Elite Kotak Health Premium- Edge	11,139 9,757
Chola MS General	Day Care Treatments Hospital Room Eligibility Hospitalization at Home Alternate Medicine	Flexi Health	7,807

Insurer name	Key features	Plan names	Premium (₹)
Digit Healthcare Plus	Day Care Treatments Family Floater Option Restoration of cover	Option 2 - Early Cover Option 3 - Super care Super care Option (Direct)	8,064 7,616 6,473
Bajaj Allianz General	Hospital Room Eligibility Wellness Benefits Family Floater Option No claim bonus	Individual Health Guard Bajaj Health Guard - Platinum	12,213 13,570
SBI General Insurance	Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home Free health checkup	Arogya Premier Arogya Supreme	11,074 13,180
Royal Sundaram General	Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home Hospital Room Eligibility Alternate Medicine	Lifeline supreme	8,578
TATA AIG	Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home Free health checkup	Medicare Medicare Premier	9,820 12,176
Universal Sompo General	Hospitalization at Home Hospital Room Eligibility Alternate Medicine	Complete Healthcare Priviledge	12,241
Raheja QBE	Hospitalization at Home Restoration of Cover Hospital Room Eligibility	Health QuBE Basic Health QuBE SuperSaver Health QuBE Comprehensive	4,947 4,011 5,787
Edelweiss General	Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home Hospital Room Eligibility Alternate Medicine	Edelweiss Health Insurance- Gold (Health 241 Add-on) Edelweiss Health Insurance Gold	10,916 8,733
Liberty General	Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home Hospital Room Eligibility	Basic Elite Supremo	9,579 10,777 11,337
Oriental Insurance	Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home	Individual Mediclaim Policy	12,684

Data is as on May 27, 2022
Source: LIC of India, www.policybazaar.com

For a 30-year-old male, non-smoker, for sum insured of ₹10 lakh living in a metro city

Hardik-inspired Titans cap a remarkable campaign with title

The skipper's three for 17 and 34 flatten Royals; Buttler top scores with 39, while other batters fail to get going; Gill and Miller take the Gujarat side to victory

Glittering display: Gujarat Titans made it a memorable debut in the IPL with a commanding win in the final against Rajasthan Royals. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Crucial strike: Hardik celebrates with teammates after dismissing Buttler. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

IPL 2022

ASHWIN ACHAL
AHMEDABAD

In front of a raucous home crowd, Gujarat Titans outclassed Rajasthan Royals by seven wickets to claim the Indian Premier League title here on Sunday.

The packed house at the Narendra Modi Stadium, which housed a little over 1,00,000 spectators on the night, brought the roof down when Shubman Gill hit the winning runs.

Standout side

The win completed a remarkable campaign for Gujarat, one of two new teams in the IPL. From dominating the group stage games to staying unbeaten in the playoff rounds, Gujarat has been the standout side of the tournament.

Chasing 131, Gujarat overcame a slow start to finish in style. Captain Hardik Pandya (34, 30b, 3x4, 1x6) and Gill (45 n.o., 43b, 3x4, 1x6) took the side to a comfortable position with a 63-run third-wicket stand.

There were a few tense faces in the stands when Hardik edged Yuzvendra Chahal to slip, but next man David Miller eased all nerves with a polished unbeaten 32.

Gill was fortunate to get a reprieve in the first over, when he was yet to open his account. An inside edge off Trent Boult lobbed to Chahal who put down an easy catch at square-leg. Shimron Hetmyer failed to grab a tough chance, running back from cover, when Hardik was on three.

It came as a surprise when Royals chose to bat first. Royals had won its previous match chasing, and had lost the Qualifier 1 to Titans when batting first. Royals skipper Sanju Samson justified the decision at the toss ceremony, stating that the pitch wore a dry look.

The move did not work, as Rajasthan finished with a low score. Hardik was the wrecker-in-chief, picking up three big wickets.

Hardik kept an awkward length outside off, making it difficult for the batters to put him away. In dismissing his opposite number Samson, Jos Buttler and Hetmyer, Hardik crushed the core of the Royals batting.

Rashid Khan, who extracted turn with his quick, flat deliveries, also proved to be a handful. The Afghanistan spinner and Hardik conceded just 35 runs in the eight overs they bowled.

Royals were down in a hole after the departure of Jos Buttler (39, 35b, 5x4). Buttler, the man in form after his unbeaten century on Friday, was uncharacteristically subdued. He struggled to get it off the square, eventually falling to a tame nick off Hardik.

Out of sorts

Devdutt Padikkal was utterly out of sorts in his 10-ball two. When Buttler and Padikkal were together, the run-rate slowed down dramatically. Things did not get much better later, as the batters who followed failed to fire.

Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal (22, 16b, 1x4, 2x6) got a couple of sweet blows off the bat, until he mistimed a pull off Yash Dayal to R. Sai Kishore at deep square-leg.

Dayal (1/18) and Mohammed Shami (1/33) were impressive with the new ball.

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Yashasvi Jaiswal c Sai Kishore b Dayal 22 *(16b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Jos Buttler c Saha b Hardik 39 *(35b, 5x4)*, Sanju Samson c Sai Kishore b Hardik 14 *(11b, 2x4)*, Devdutt Padikkal c Shami b Rashid 2 *(10b)*, Shimron Hetmyer c & b Hardik 11 *(12b, 2x4)*, R. Ashwin c Miller b Sai Kishore 6 *(9b)*, Riyan Parag b Shami 15 *(15b, 1x4)*, Trent Boult c Tewatia b Sai Kishore 11 *(7b, 1x6)*, Obed McCoy run out 8 (5b, 1x6), Prasidh Krishna (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (lb-2): 2; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 130.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-31 (Jaiswal, 3.6 overs), 2-60 (Samson, 8.2), 3-79 (Padikkal, 11.5), 4-79 (Buttler, 12.1), 5-94 (Hetmyer, 14.6), 6-98 (R. Ashwin, 15.5), 7-112 (Boult, 17.3), 8-130 (McCoy, 19.4), 9-130 (Parag, 19.6).

TITANS BOWLING

Shami 4-0-33-1, Dayal 3-0-18-1, Ferguson 3-0-22-0, Rashid 4-0-18-1, Hardik 4-0-17-3, Sai Kishore 2-0-20-2.

GUJARAT TITANS

Wriddhiman Saha b Prasidh 5 *(7b, 1x4)*, Shubman Gill (not out) 45 *(43b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Matthew Wade c Parag b Boult 8 *(10b, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya c Jaiswal b Chahal 34 *(30b, 3x4, 1x6)*, David Miller (not out) 32 *(19b, 3x4, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-1, w-8): 9; Total (for three wkts. in 18.1 overs): 133.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-9 (Saha, 1.4), 2-23 (Wade, 4.3), 3-86 (Hardik, 13.2).

ROYALS BOWLING

Boult 4-1-14-1, Prasidh 4-0-40-1, Chahal 4-0-20-1, McCoy 3.1-0-26-0, R. Ashwin 3-0-32-0.

Toss: RR; **MoM:** Hardik.

Titans won by seven wickets with 11 balls to spare to clinch IPL trophy.

Innings scan

RR		GT
52	Dots	47
11	Fours	10
4	Sixes	4
44/1	PP	31/2
6.50	RR	7.32

HONOURS BOARD

2008	Rajasthan Royals
2009	Deccan Chargers
2010	Chennai Super Kings
2011	Chennai Super Kings
2012	Kolkata Knight Riders
2013	Mumbai Indians
2014	Kolkata Knight Riders
2015	Mumbai Indians
2016	Sunrisers Hyderabad
2017	Mumbai Indians
2018	Chennai Super Kings
2019	Mumbai Indians
2020	Mumbai Indians
2021	Chennai Super Kings
2022	Gujarat Titans

... And the caps go to

ORANGE CAP

JOS BUTTLER (RR)
Matches: 17 | Runs: 863
HS: 116 | SR: 149.05

PURPLE CAP

YUZVENDRA CHAHAL (RR)
Matches: 17 | Wickets: 27
BB: 5/40 | Econ: 7.75

Individual honours

- **Game-changer of the season and MVP:** Jos Buttler (RR)
- **Emerging player of the season:** Umran Malik (SRH)
- **Fair play award:** Titans and Royals
- **Catch of the season:** Evin Lewis (LSG)
- **Super Striker of the season:** Dinesh Karthik (183.33)
- **Most sixes and most fours:** Jos Buttler
- **Fastest ball of the season:** Lockie Ferguson (GT)

A phenomenal journey: Miller

Kirsten says Hardik is humble and wants to learn as a leader

SPORTS REPORTER
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Titans opening batter Shubman Gill said that the IPL title win will count as one of his biggest career achievements.

Gill, who hit a nerveless unbeaten 45 to guide Titans past Rajasthan Royals in the final here on Sunday, stated, "This means a lot. After winning the Under-19 World Cup, winning the IPL is just as big. I wanted to be there and bat till the end. That was the talk I had with the coaches. I'm glad I took the team over the line. Our bowlers did really well to restrict Rajasthan to 130. We wanted to keep them under 150, but we did even better."

David Miller, who finished the season with an impressive average of 68.71, spoke highly of captain Hardik Pandya.

"It has been a phenomenal journey for us. It has been a collective effort... everyone has put his hand up and performed well. Hardik has been very relaxed. We've had a very good bond with (head coach) Ashish Nehra and Hardik. The skipper has gotten better and better as the competition has gone on. Tactically, he's been brilliant," said Miller at the post-match interview.

Assistant coach Gary Kirsten was equally effusive in his praise of Hardik.

"I've looked working with Hardik. He's a high-profile player in India, but he's incredibly humble. He wants to learn as a leader. He engages with his players, which is really, really important. He's tried to help the youngsters as well," Kirsten said.

Sealing the deal: Gill and Miller celebrate after taking Titans past the finish line. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Dream debut

In every match they played, they found a new hero. Stuff of dreams for a franchise playing its first season
V.V.S. LAXMAN

What a dream debut season for Gujarat Titans! Hardik has been absolutely brilliant as a leader and player. Buttler was in a league of his own and Rajasthan Royals can be proud of their season
VIRENDER SEHWAG

Commendable play throughout the tournament. Kudos to captain Hardik and the team. Great innings on the big stage by Gill
HARBHAJAN SINGH

Fantastic achievement for a new franchise... if India needs a captain in a couple of years, I wouldn't look past Hardik
MICHAEL VAUGHAN

Glitz and glam!

Star-studded show: The packed house at the Narendra Modi Stadium was treated to an entertainment extravaganza headlined by A.R. Rahman and Ranveer Singh before the start of the final. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Nadal books quarterfinal date with Djokovic after epic win over Auger-Aliassime

Former prevails in a five-setter while the latter impresses in his straight-set victory over Schwartzman; Fernandez fires 40 winners against Anisimova

Down, but not out! Nadal was at his indefatigable best on Sunday. • AFP

FRENCH OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Rafael Nadal set up a blockbuster French Open quarterfinal against World No.1 Novak Djokovic when he defeated Felix Auger-Aliassime in a five-set fourth round epic on Sunday.

Nadal, the 13-time champion at Roland Garros and holder of a record 21 Grand Slam titles, triumphed over the Canadian 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 in four hours and 21 minutes.

It was only the third time in his 17-year, 111-match career in Paris that Nadal had been stretched to five sets.

Nadal and Djokovic will meet for the 10th time at Roland Garros and 59th time overall in a rivalry stretching back to 2006.

Earlier, Djokovic entered the last eight with an impressive 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 victory over 15th seed Diego Schwartzman. The reigning champion is bidding to equal Nadal's men's record of Grand Slam titles.

Djokovic is playing in a Major for the first time this year after being deported from the Australian Open, where Nadal won his 21st Slam, over his Covid vaccination status. The World No. 1 is still to drop a set after cruising through the first week.

In the women's event, Canadian teenager Leylah Fernandez reached the quarterfinals for the first time. Fernandez, seeded 17th and who was U.S. Open runner-up last year, fired an impressive 40 winners past 2019 semifinalist Amanda Anisimova to secure a 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 win.

The 19-year-old has made the quarterfinals on the back of an impressive 23 service breaks over four rounds.

American teenager Coco Gauff made the last 16 for the second successive year with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Belgium's Elise Mertens.

In the mixed doubles second round, Lucie Hradecka and Gonzalo Escobar got the better of Rohan Bopanna and Andreja Klepac 7-6(2), 6-2.

Day in numbers

1 Fernandez made it to the last eight at Roland Garros for the first time

2 Trevisan is the third Italian woman to reach two or more quarterfinals at Paris in the Open Era after Errani (4) and Schiavone (3)

16 The number of quarterfinal appearances for Djokovic at the French Open. The Serb has not failed to enter that stage since 2009

Monday's picks

MEN

2-Medvedev vs. 20-Cilic
4-Tsitsipas vs. Rune
7-Rublev vs. 11-Sinner
8-Rudd vs. 12-Hurkacz

DOUBLES

16-Bopanna & Middlekoop vs. Glasspool & Heliovaara

WOMEN

1-Swiatek vs. Zheng
11-Pegula vs. Begu
20-Kasatkina vs. 28-Giorgi
22-Keys vs 29-Kudermetova

THE RESULTS

Fourth round: Men: 1-Djokovic (Srb) bt 15-Schwartzman (Arg) 6-1, 6-3, 6-3; 3-Zverev (Ger) bt Miralles (Esp) 7-6(11), 7-5, 6-3; 5-Nadal (Esp) bt 9-Auger-Aliassime (Can) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. **Women:** Trevisan (Ita) bt Sasnovich 7-6(10), 7-5; 17-Fernandez bt 27-Anisimova (USA) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; 18-Gauff (USA) bt 31-Mertens (Bel) 6-4, 6-0; Stephens (USA) bt 23-Teichmann (Sui) 6-2, 6-0. **Mixed doubles: Second round:** Hradecka (Cze) & Escobar (Ecu) bt Bopanna (Ind) & Klepac (Slo) 7-6(2), 6-2. **First round:** Soares & Haddad Maia (Bra) bt Dodig (Cro) & Sania 6-4, 6-3.

Fallen seeds

- Men: 9-Auger-Aliassime, 15-Schwartzman
- Women: 23-Teichmann, 27-Anisimova, 31-Mertens

It's inevitable, Real Madrid marches on to European glory

Spanish giant weathers Liverpool surge for record 14th crown with goalkeeper and Man-of-the-Match Courtois outstanding under the bar

Making it count: Vinicius Jr ghosts in behind Liverpool's napping defence to bundle into an empty net. • GETTY IMAGES

A night to remember: Real Madrid's outgoing skipper Marcelo leads the celebration from the podium. • AP

A Real high
I can't believe what Courtois did tonight. Unbelievable
ANCELOTTI
There was some magazine, I think in England, that didn't put me in the top-10 goalkeepers in the world by the way
COURTOIS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Vinicius Junior scored the only goal of the game as Real Madrid beat Liverpool 1-0 in Saturday's Champions League final in Paris to become kings of Europe for a record-extending 14th time after a night marred by problems outside the ground that led to the kick-off being delayed by over half an hour.

Brazilian winger Vinicius turned in Fede Valverde's enticing low cross in the 59th minute at the Stade de France and Liverpool could not find an equaliser as Jurgen Klopp's side lost to the Spanish giant in a Champions League final for the second time in five seasons.

Falling short

The Anfield side will wonder what might have been had the outstanding Thibaut Courtois not pushed Sadio Mane's shot onto the inside of a post when it was on top in the first half, as it fell short of a trophy treble. Mane came agonisingly close to opening the scoring in the 21st minute only for Courtois to tip his net-bound shot onto his right-hand post.

VAR overturn

Real, meanwhile, created almost nothing in the first half with Karim Benzema quiet, but its captain briefly thought he had got the breakthrough two minutes before the interval. The decision to disallow the goal was upheld after a lengthy VAR check.

Yet Ancelotti's side kept its nerve and was rewarded with the goal as the hour mark approached.

Valverde drove forward down the right before firing a low ball across the face of goal for Vinicius to turn it in at the far post past his Brazilian national team colleague Alisson.

Courtois was superb, flying to his right to keep out a Salah curler before two saves in quick succession late on.

First the Belgian got down low when substitute Diogo Jota deflected Salah's effort towards goal, and then he produced a strong arm to turn a Salah strike behind.

It was Real Madrid's night.

The result: Liverpool 0 lost to Real Madrid 1 (Vinicius Jr 59).

1 Benzema won the Golden Boot for the first time in his career

1 Konate lost his first game in a Liverpool jersey

3 Klopp joined Lippi for most defeats in a final

3 Only three goalkeepers have been named Player-of-the-Match in a summit clash - Kahn (2001), van der Sar (2008), Courtois (2022)

3 The last three champions kept a cleansheet in the final. The scoreline was also the same in all: 1-0 for the winner

4 No coach has won more European Cups than Ancelotti - two each with Real and Milan. He also has two as a player with Milan

5 The number of titles Real has won in the last decade

5 Players with the most number of UCL era titles - Ronaldo, Bale, Benzema, Carvajal, Casemiro, Isco, Kroos, Marcelo, Modric, Nacho

6 Salah's shots on target was the most (since 2003-04) by a player in a final

9 Courtois pulled off nine brilliant saves to deny Liverpool. He had made eight saves each against PSG and Man City

14 Real's European Cup/Champions League triumphs, twice as many as second-placed AC Milan

71 vs 134 Real's shots compared to its opponents in the knock-out stage, but it still got past PSG, Chelsea, Man City and Liverpool

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18, Voot Select, Vh1, MTV & Jio TV, 6 a.m.

Roland Garros 2022: Sony Ten 2 & 3 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 1.30 p.m. onwards

IN BRIEF

Bagnaia wins Italian MotoGP

MUGELLO

Francesco Bagnaia won the Italian MotoGP on Sunday while Fabio Quartararo extended his lead at the top of the championship standings. AFP

Para-canoeist Prachi bags bronze in Poland

NEW DELHI

Para-canoeist Prachi Yadav became the first Indian to clinch a bronze in women's VL2 200m event at the Paracanoe World Cup at Poznan, Poland. Prachi returned 1:04.71s, behind silver medallist Brianna Hennessy of Canada (1:01.58s) and gold medallist Susan Seipel of Australia (1:01.54s). PTI

Rundrankksh finishes seventh

NEW DELHI

Rudrankksh Patil finished joint seventh in 10-metre air rifle in the shooting World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Sunday. .

The results: Air rifle: Men: 1. Lazar Kovacevic (Srb) 16 (260.9) 630.6; 2. Miran Maricic (Cro) 14 (261.8) 628.6; 3. Islam Usseinov (Kaz) 260.5 (629.6); 7. Rudrankksh Patil 153.7 (628.8); 26. Paarth Makhija 624.7; 35. Dhanush Srikanth 623.8; Deepak Kumar 626.8.
Women: 1. Oceanne Muller (Fra) 16 (262.5) 633.2; 2. Aneta Stankiewicz (Pol) 12 (262.4) 633.1; 3. Laura-Georgeta Ilie (Rou) 261.0 (630.1); 10. Elavenil Valarivan 629.1; 24. Shreya Agrawal 627.0; 29. Ramita 626.2.

Ludhiana and Hyderabad take honours

BENGALURU

Ludhiana and Hyderabad emerged the men's and women's champions respectively at the inaugural edition of the BFI-INBL 3x3 basketball championship which concluded here on Sunday. Jaipur men and Indore women won the under-18 titles.

Rajiv Sethu finishes 15th

SEPANG

Rajiv Sethu, riding for the Honda Racing India team, scored a point when he finished 15th in race two of the second round of the Asia Production 250 class (AP250) in the Asian Road Racing Championship on Sunday. Senthil Kumar failed to score points after suffering a crash and finished 16th.

Malaysia holds India to a 3-3 draw

Sardar's men, however, inch closer to the final

ASIA CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAKARTA

India almost clinched the title round berth before Razie Rahim turned out to be Malaysia's saviour with a hat-trick in an enthralling 3-3 draw in a Super 4 encounter of Asia Cup hockey tournament here on Sunday.

Rahim (12th, 21st, 56th minutes) converted three penalty corners for Malaysia, while India made a valiant fightback after being two goals down, scoring through Vishnukant Singh (32nd), S.V. Sunil (53rd) and Nilam Sanjeep Xess (55th).

In another Super 4 league match, South Korea defeated Japan 3-1 to move to four points.

Fighting hard: Vishnukant opened the scoring for India. • FIH

As the Super 4's table stands, South Korea – with a goal difference of +2 (5-3) – is on top. India – (GD) +1 (5-4) – is second.

Japan, with two defeats, has no chance of making it to the final while Malaysia (GD) 0 (5-5) has an outside chance if it can beat Japan by a comprehensive margin and the India-South Korea match ends in a draw.

The results: Malaysia 3 (Rahim 12, 21, 56) drew with India 3 (Vishnukant Singh 32, S.V. Sunil 53, Nilam Sanjeep Xess 55).

South Korea 3 bt Japan 1.

Bangladesh 4 bt Indonesia 2.

Once You Go Back wins War Hammer Million

BENGALURU: James Mckeown-trained Once You Go Back (Trevor up) won the War Hammer Million, the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (May 29). The winner is owned by M/s. Diamond Band Racing Syndicate Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Kersi H. Vachha & M/s. Sarainaga Racing Pvt. Ltd.

1. ASCOT PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25: **KNOTTY IN BLUE** (Gaurav Singh) 1, Mount View (S. John) 2, Capital Gain (Mark) 3 and Don's Den (Darshan) 4. 3/4, 5 and 2-1/2. 1m, 13.83s. ₹18 (w), 13, 17 and 33 (p), SHP: 46, THP: 74, FP: 71, Q: 32, Trinella: 522 and 363, Exacta: 7,302 and 4,694. Owner: Mr. K. Kamesh. Trainer: Rajendra Singh.

2. MEYDAN PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over: **CHUL BUL RANI** (Ranjeet Singh) 1, Divine Blessings (S. John) 2, Another Rainbow (Raghuveer Singh) 3 and She's All Class (Ashhad Asbar) 4. Not run: Mount View. Lnk, 1-3/4 and 3/4. 1m, 13.23s. ₹84 (w), 21, 13 and 29 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 55, FP: 497, Q: 194, Trinella: 5,551 and 3,172, Exacta: 23,755 and 5,090. Favourite: Divine Blessings. Owner: Mr. H.S. Chandre Gowda. Trainer: Dheeraj V.

3. BEAUTIFUL BABE PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **CROWN CONSORT** (Suraj) 1, Forseti (Akshay K) 2, Besuge (Arvind Kumar) 3 and Fortunate Son (N.S. Parmar) 4. Not run: Swift. 2-1/4, 6 and 1. 1m, 11.48s. ₹21 (w), 12, 14 and 74 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 116, FP: 61, Q: 40, Trinella: 947 and 960, Exacta: 2,716 and 555. Favourite: Crown Consort. Owners: Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal, United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd, Mr. M. Ravi and Mrs. R. Chellam. Trainer: S. Narredu.

4. SWEET MEMORIES PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over: **SOUTHERN POWER** (Akshay K) 1, Tifanny (Sandesh) 2, Queen Regnant (Bhawani Singh) 3 and Marco Polo (P.S. Chouhan) 4. 2-1/4, 2-1/2 and Hd. 1m, 25.20s. ₹131 (w), 33, 14 and 17 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 52, FP: 342, Q: 81, Trinella: 1,236 and 628, Exacta: 7,646 and 3,277. Favourite: Tifanny. Owners: Dr. K. Raghavan, Dr. Arun Raghavan & Mr. Dayanand Kachuwah. Trainer: Faraz Arshad.

5. BRIG. R.C.R. HILL MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **NIKOLINA** (Suraj) 1, Triple Wish (J.H. Arul) 2, Victoria Punch (Anjar Alam) 3 and Arrowette (Trevor) 4. Not run: Disruptor and Geographique. 1-3/4, 1-3/4 and 2-1/4. 1m, 25.28s. ₹39 (w), 15, 24 and 19 (p), SHP: 77, THP: 42, FP: 335, Q: 296, Trinella: 2,746 and 1,046, Exacta: 2,049 and 878. Favourite: Arrowette. Owners: Mr. Ronak J. Kimmane, Mr. N.C. Arun, Mr. M.P. Vikram and Mr. Rohan Vijayendra. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

6. WAR HAMMER MILLION (1,400m), 3-y-o only, (Terms): **ONCE YOU GO BACK** (Trevor) 1, Philosophy (Sandesh) 2, Imperial Power (Suraj) 3, and Yukan (Akshay K) 4. 1/2, 3-3/4 and 5-4/2. 1m, 23.53s. ₹42 (w), 19 and 15 (p), SHP: 23, THP: 59, FP: 306, Q: 76, Trinella: 166 and 60, Exacta: 251 and 256. Favourite: Imperial Power. Owners: M/s. Diamond Band Rac. Syn. Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Kersi H. Vachha & M/s. Sarainaga Racing Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: James McKeown.

7. JAYACHAMARAJA WADIYAR CUP (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms): **FOREST FLAME** (Trevor) 1, Ashwa Bravo (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Taimur (Vishal Bunde) 3 and Speedster (Akshay K) 4. 1-1/2, 4-1/4 and Nk. 1m, 24.31s. ₹15 (w), 10 and 15 (p), SHP: 19, THP: 46, FP: 24, Q: 23, Trinella: 149 and 105, Exacta: 305 and 133. Favourite: Forest Flame. Owners: Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. rep by. Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla, Mrs. Simone Poonawalla Pandole & Mrs. Deina Z. Poonawalla, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, M/S. DT Racing & Breeding LLP rep. by. Mr. D.R. Thacker and Mr. Chaduranga Kanthraj Urs. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

8. MEYDAN PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over: **IMPERIAL BLUE** (Akshay K) 1, Spectacular (Sandesh) 2, The Strength (P. Siddaraju) 3 and Amazonite (Arvind Kumar) 4. 2-1/2, 5-1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 12.06s. ₹21 (w), 11, 16 and 65 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 126, FP: 53, Q: 38, Trinella: 1,122 and 827, Exacta: 17,555 and 7,524. Favourite: Imperial Blue. Owner: M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

9. ASCOT PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25: **ALEXIS ZORBA** (Likith Appu) 1, Mark One (R. Ajinkya) 2, Air Display (Salman Khan) 3 and Able One (P.S. Chouhan) 4. Shd, 1/2 and 3-1/2. 1m, 13.95s. ₹88 (w), 21, 12 and 19 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 52, FP: 314, Q: 132, Trinella: 1,124 and 335, Exacta: 1,954 and 729. Favourite: Mark One. Owners: Mr. Hemant Dharnidharka & Manjri Horse Breed's Farm Pvt Ltd. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

Jackpot: ₹8,771 (nine tkts.); Runner-up: 463 (73 tkts.); Tr (i): 693 (nine tkts.); Tr (ii): 2,016 (four tkts.); Tr (iii): 191 (100 tkts.).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Nina swims to two new meet records

Nina Venkatesh set two new meet records, in the girls' Group I freestyle and butterfly races over 50m, as the State sub-junior and junior swimming championship drew to a close in Belagavi on Sunday.

Select results (winners all): Boys: Group II: 50m freestyle: Ishaan Mehra (25.54s) (NMR; OR: Ishaan, 25.58).

Girls: Group I: 50m freestyle: Nina Venkatesh (27.70) (NMR; OR: Reshma Millet, 27.73); **50m butterfly:** Nina (28.84)(NMR: OR: Nina, 29.04).

Group II: 50m freestyle: Dhinidhi Desinghu (27.88) (NMR: OR: Dhinidhi, 27.95); **200m freestyle:** Dhinidhi (2:09.27) (NMR: OR: Hashika Ramachandra, 2:13.46); **50m butterfly:** Dhinidhi (29.09) (NMR: OR: Dhinidhi, 29.39); **400m IM:** Hashika (5:19.94) (NMR; OR: Madhavi Giri, 5:24.33); **4x100m medley:** Dolphin-A (4:42.64) (NMR; OR: Dolphin, 4:45.66).

Individual champions: Boys: Group I: Vidith S.Shankar (37 points).

Group II: Ishaan Mehra (45).

Group III: Sharan Sridhara (45); **Girls: Group I:** Ridhima Veerendrakumar (76).

Group II: Dhinidhi Desinghu (85).

Group III: Alyssa Sweedal Rego (32).

Team: Junior: Dolphin (206); **sub-junior:** BAC (736).

Ramesh nets four in RWF FC's big win

S. Ramesh scored four goals as RWF FC defeated Parikram FC 5-1 in the BDFA A-division league championship, here on Sunday.

The results: Rebels FC 2 (Faisal Zafa Konan 10, Bibin Boban 22) bt Friends United FC 0; RWF FC 5 (S. Ramesh 15, 34, 51, 68, D. Dinesh 60) bt Parikram FC 1 (Madan 48).

Bangalore Gunners FC 2 (Cyril Justin Thiraviyam 61, 74) bt South United FC 0.

AGORC FC 2 (Hemanthkumar 49, Nishanth 62) bt Income Tax FC 1 (V. Premkumar 8).

Mukund and Sudiksha triumph

Mukund Krishnan Malolan won the under-16 title and S. Sudiksha the under-10 top-prize at the Champions Chess Academy Rapid chess tournament, on Sunday. Both Malolan and Sudiksha won all five of their matches to emerge triumphant.

Toshniwal exits in last four

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Smit Toshniwal lost 13-21, 11-21 to top seed Wen Chi Hsu of Chinese Taipei in the women's semifinals of the Austrian Open International badminton series in Graz on Sunday.

Smit had defeated compatriot Keyura Mopati in the quarterfinals, and, in earlier rounds, Indonesia's Mutiara Ayu Pusapitasari and England's Estelle Van Leeuwen. PTI

Piggott passes away

Legendary jockey had won the Indian Turf Invitation Cup in 1991

Great show: Delage (Lester Piggott astride) being led in by owners Vijay Mallaya and Z.S. Poonawalla and trainer R.R. Byramji after winning the 1991 Indian Turf Invitation Cup. • THE HINDU ARCHIVES

AGENCIES
LONDON

Former champion jockey Lester Piggott, who won the Epsom Derby nine times and was widely considered one of the greatest riders of all time, has died at the age of 86, his family said on Sunday. Piggott had gone into hospital in Switzerland last week.

Winners galore

Piggott, nicknamed "The Long Fellow', began racing horses aged 10 and went on to accumulate more than 4,000 victories in a storied career during which he was crowned British champion jockey a remarkable 11 times. He rode his first winner at the age of 12 and his last a few weeks short of his 59th birthday.

He had 30 winners in the five British Classics of flat-racing – the Derby nine times, the 2,000 Guineas five times, the 1,000 Guineas twice, the Oaks six times and St. Leger eight times.

One of his most famous horses was Nijinsky, which won the Derby, the 2,000 Guineas and the St. Leger.

Lester Piggott. • AFP

He was an awarded an OBE in 1975 but was later stripped of the honour after being convicted of tax fraud in 1987 and sentenced to three years in jail.

Indian racing fans got to see the legendary jockey in action in 1991 when he took part in the Invitation Cup races in Chennai.

The Englishman showed his class in the the blue riband race of the Indian racing calendar, winning the Indian Turf Invitation Cup handily astride Vijay Mallya and Z.S. Poonawalla's Byramji-trained Delage.

SNAPSHOTS

Sergio Perez claims a nail-biting Monaco GP

MONACO: Mexican Sergio Perez won a rain-delayed, crash-halted and ultimately nail-biting Monaco Grand Prix on Sunday as Red Bull team mate Max Verstappen finished third to stretch his Formula One lead over Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz was second, for the second year in a row, with Leclerc an agonising fourth in his home race after starting on pole position but with his team outsmarted on strategy by Red Bull.

Meanwhile, India's Jehan Daruvala had a second-place finish in the Formula 2 championship in Saturday's Sprint race.

Indian para shuttlers strike it rich

DUBAI: Manisha Ramadass claimed a double, by winning the women's SU5 singles and doubles titles, in the 4th Fazza Dubai Para Badminton International here on Sunday.

Sergio Perez celebrates. • REUTERS

The results (finals): Women's SU5: Manisha bt Akiko Sugino (Jpn) 21-17, 21-11. **Doubles:** Manisha & Mandeep Kaur bt Nipada Saensupa & Chanida Srinavakul (Tha) 21-9, 21-13. **Men's SL3:** Pramod Bhagat bt Nitish Kumar 19-21, 21-17, 21-17. **Women's SL3:** Manasi Joshi bt Mandeep Kaur 16-21, 24-22, 21-14.

India loses to Jordan

DOHA: India lost 2-0 to Jordan in an international football friendly here on Saturday.

The result: Jordan 2 (Monther Abu Amara 75, Abu Zraiq 90+4) bt India 0.

Uttar Pradesh triumphs

KOVILPATTI: Uttar Pradesh registered a 2-0 win over Chandigarh in the final of the 12th Hockey India-National junior men's championship in Kovilpatti on Sunday.

The results: Final: Uttar Pradesh 2 (Sourabh Anand Khushwaha, Sharda Nand Tiwari) bt Chandigarh 0; **Third place:** Haryana 3 (Shubham, Toshant, Vikas) bt Odisha 0.

Abhijeet finishes third

SHARJAH: Abhijeet Gupta (6.5 points) drew with eventual champion Uzbek Nodirbek Abdusattorov (7) in the ninth and final round to finish third in the $60,000 Sharjah Masters chess on Sunday. D. Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi (6 each) won their final rounds to finish sixth and ninth, respectively.

The results (involving Indians): Ninth round: Abhijeet Gupta (6.5) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 6.5); Aleksandar Indjic (Srb, 5) lost to Arjun Erigaisi (6); D. Gukesh (6) bt Nijat Abasov (Aze, 5); Mustafa Yilmaz (Tur, 5.5) drew with S. P. Sethuraman (5.5); S. L. Narayanan (5) drew with Abhimanyu Puranik (5); Lucas van Foreest (Ned, 5) drew with Nihal Sarin (5); Aravindh Chithambaram (5) drew with Aram Hakobyan (Arm, 5); Aryan Chopra (5) drew with Temur Kuybokarov (Aus, 5); Sankalp Gupta (4) lost to Samvel Ter-Sahakyan (5); Aditya Mittal (4) lost to Rinat Jumabayev (Kaz, 5); Surya Shekhar Ganguly (4) lost to Sanal Vahap (5); Kivanc Haznedaroglu (Tur, 4) lost to B. Adhiban (4.5); Raunak Sadhwani (4.5) bt Mert Erdogdu (3.5).

AIFF elected body by September end: CoA

NEW DELHI: A newly elected body of the All India Football Federation should be in place by September end and a modified constitution will be submitted to the Supreme Court by July 15, Committee of Administrators (CoA) member S.Y. Quraishi said on Sunday.

AFI reaffirms push to stop doping

CHANDIGARH: The Athletics Federation of India has reiterated its commitment to prevent and eradicate doping from the sport but the absence of clarity on some of the elite athletes continues even as top officials hinted at their stand on those on the radar.

"Some athletes are provisionally suspended and some are not but the fact is that the cases are still under process or being challenged and the athletes and their lawyers are dealing with it. Till a case is over, we will not know about the updates. But if you see the people who are not in the national camps, those we are not comfortable with," AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said at the conclusion of the three-day AGM here on Sunday.